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THE NEWSPAPER FOR MAIDSTONE, MALLING, LARKFIELD AND SURROUNDING VILLAGES

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the right choice

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PROPERTY...

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BATTLE TO KEEP NHS MATERNITY SERVICES OPEN

A CAMPAIGNER has vowed
to fight to keep maternity serv-
ices at Maidstone Hospital.

Peter Carroll, the driving force
behind the landmark Gurkha rights
campaign, has now set his sights on
keeping a full service for mums giving
birth in the county town.

If current plans go-ahead,
Maidstone's consultant-led maternity
unit, inpatient services and special
baby care unit will be relocated to the
new multi-million pound Pembury
Hospital when it opens in 2011.

The changes also include a new mid-
wifery birthing centre being built at
Maidstone Hospital, where women
who are experiencing a low-risk
labour can choose to go.

■ BY ANNA WHITE

Mr Carroll, who became a national
hero for the role he played alongside
actress Joanna Lumley in the Gurkha
Justice Campaign, is now calling for
people to help him fight to keep the
services at Maidstone.

He said: "I believe the overwhelming
majority of Maidstone people are
against this decision. The consultation
has been a sham and local people are
rightly furious.

"There is strong statistical evidence
that Maidstone needs a full maternity
service and we will be making sure
that the secretary of state sees this
evidence."

Mr Carroll's campaign has already

received backing from retired mater-
nity consultant Alan Pentecost, who
founded the maternity services at
Maidstone in 1974.

Mr Pentecost said: "This decision is
immoral. The midwife-led facility
remaining at Maidstone will not be
able to provide comprehensive pain
relief and will not be able to react in
the event of an emergency.

"Exposing women in labour to the
difficult road journey from Maidstone
to Pembury is both unkind and poten-
tially dangerous."

Mr Carroll, who is also the Liberal
Democrat parliamentary candidate
for Maidstone and Weald, is urging
people to join him outside Marks and
Spencer, in Week Street, on Saturday

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



Picture: CHRIS BRUNT

TASTE OF NEPAL IN BUILD-UP TO MELA

Large crowds watched Nepalese dancing while sampling the cuisine of
the Himalayan country.

The entertainment put on by Maidstone's Nepalese community filled
the bandstand area of Fremlin Walk on Saturday.

Dancer Priya Limbu, 16, pictured, delighted the crowds with traditional
routines and there was also a high-kicking tae kwon do demonstration.

The event was part of the run-up to the annual Maidstone Mela on
September 12 and 13 in Mote Park, which celebrates diversity through
music, food and dance from across the world.

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TOP TV CLIPS



1 UK Body Painting Festival was held in Kent, attended by artists and models from across Europe. Search 'painting'.



2 Kent Fire and Rescue Service offers free home visits to advise on safety and smoke detectors. Search 'fire'.



3 This year's Venetian Fete attracted record crowds to the banks of the Royal Military Canal in Hythe. Search 'fete'.

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Sculptors bid for community art commission

■ BY JON COATES

THREE artists have been shortlisted to create an £80,000 piece of art to tower over a new community.

More than 60 artists expressed interest in securing the commission which will be sited at Kings Hill, near West Malling.

Andrew Blevins of developers Liberty Property Trust, which is working on the project along with Kent County Council arts development unit, said: "The high interest and calibre of artists expressing an interest reflects the increasing popularity of public art."

The new work will be on a roundabout between Discovery Drive and Beacon Avenue, in a recently developed section of the residential area of Kings Hill.

The shortlisted artists are James Hopkins, Richard Perry and Andy Scott.

Mr Hopkins has proposed a sphere that will assimilate the imagined action of driving and circumnavigating the roundabout.

It will be a reflection of its environment and the panel was attracted to the contemporary design of this artwork and were impressed by the artist's previous work.

Mr Perry proposed a large vertical bronze structure that will complement the roundabout in a contextual way to give a feeling of movement.

The panel was impressed by previous examples of his work and admired his proposed design for an elegant yet powerful artwork.

And Mr Scott has chosen to develop a theme based on the semi-rural and pastoral tranquillity of the area.

In his proposal nature, personified by a stag and a fox, clambers over a reclining figure. He hopes to evoke a notion of the balance of nature with-



PUBLIC ART: When Spirits Soar, one of the sculptures currently displayed at Kings Hill

in the built environment.

The panel was particularly drawn to the imaginative nature of this proposal and its originality and freshness.

Each artist will make a model of their work, which will be on show to the public in September.

The judges will take comments into consideration before making their final decision on the winner in October.

Once commissioned, it is expected that the work will be installed in spring 2010.

The chosen artist will receive up to £80,000 to create and install the design. The fee has been raised from the sale of land for houses at Kings Hill.

yourmaidstone
NEWS IN BRIEF

Man arrested after drugs raid on homes

POLICE arrested a 22-year-old man after a raid on two houses near Maidstone town centre.

The operation was carried out by Maidstone's Urban Neighbourhood Team after a tip-off that drug dealing had been taking place at the properties in Peel Street.

The team arrested the man on suspicion of drug offences after a quantity of what is believed to be herbal cannabis and amphetamine was seized. He was being quizzed at Maidstone Police Station.

To report information regarding drugs supply, call the urban neighbourhood team on 01622 604391, or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Police rail office burglary on CCTV

TEEN burglars broke into a railway police office and made off with a number of items.

The three teenagers – two boys and one girl – were caught on CCTV forcing open the door of the building at Harrietsham station, in the early hours of Tuesday, June 16.

PC Andrew Devereese, of the British Transport Police, said: "Most of the stolen items were recovered nearby but some are still missing, including a badge given to the officers by the South Australian Police."

Anyone with information should call 0800 40 50 40 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. To see the CCTV images go to www.yourmaidstone.co.uk.

County town's worst road safety record

THE county town has the worst road safety record in Kent, according to new figures.

Council chiefs are to discuss how to reverse this worrying trend, highlighted in a report, Fit for the Road, which was launched at a road safety event outside County Hall on Monday last week.

Maidstone Mayor Peter Parvin attended the event where visitors were able to experience a road accident using a crash test machine and motorists could find how out how fit they are to drive.

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Rude awakenings with three-day crackdown

■ BY ANNA WHITE

SIX people were arrested during a three-day police operation to crack-down on illegal drugs and stolen goods in the Paddock Wood area.

Neighbourhood police teams executed five early morning warrants between Wednesday and Friday at residential and commercial premises.

On the first day, a 20-year-old man was arrested at a house in Maidstone Road, on suspicion of cultivation of cannabis, and was later cautioned.

Also on Wednesday, officers arrested a man in his 40s in a pub in Church Road, on suspicion of theft and fraud offences relating to counterfeit currency.

The man was later cautioned and officers seized what are believed to be stolen goods.

On Thursday, the officers returned to Maidstone Road and arrested a man and woman, both in their 40s, and another man in his 20s, on suspicion of possession with intent to supply class A drugs. All three have since been bailed while the investigation continues.

Officers also raided a house in Ewins Close but no arrests were made, and searched a nearby shop.

On the final day of the operation, the team executed a warrant at a home in Queen's Street and arrested a man in his 40s on suspicion of handling stolen goods.

Police seized property and cash from the address. He was being questioned in police custody.

More than 20 officers took part in the operations, including officers from the police neighbourhood team, the neighbourhood task team, dog handlers with specialist drugs dogs, and a licensing officer.

To ensure residents were able to ask questions about the operation the neighbourhood team set-up a mobile police station.

Neighbourhood officer Sgt Ray Masters said: "The operation was very much about reacting to information people were giving us about criminal activity and the supply of drugs in the town."

"The neighbourhood team will take action when they receive information about what is happening in the community."

"The majority of people who live in Paddock Wood are keen to keep this a nice place and don't want to be associated with criminality."

"We are going to carry on with operations like this to do all we can to keep the town the place people want it to be."

Paddock Wood is covered by the Tunbridge Wells rural neighbourhood policing team, which can be contacted on 01892 502143.



HARD KNOCK: Officers force open a door



QUICK RESPONSE: Officers move in at Paddock Wood

Ecology drive for no-car motorists

SHOPPERS and workers ditched their cars on Friday to support Maidstone Goes Green Week and received a free breakfast for their efforts.

Last week Maidstone Town Centre Management encouraged everyone to be more environmentally-friendly through green-inspired events.

To bring the week to an end on Friday, the team hosted its second In Town Without My Car Day, where people were urged to choose another way of getting into the town centre.

County council travel team leader Graham Tanner said: "Hopefully people will try not coming into town with their cars, then make the switch and keep doing it."

Oxfam manager Matthew Fray travelled in by bus from Chatham. He said: "I think it's a really good idea and if it helps the environment, even better. It has 100 per cent support from me."

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Maidstone Goes Green Week was a success. Search 'green'.

'If you care you'll get behind us'

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

at 11am, to launch the Full Maternity at Maidstone campaign.

He will also be writing to more than 20,000 women in the county town to ask them to write to the secretary of state to show their support for the campaign.

Mr Carroll, who runs a haulage firm in Larkfield, added: "I know from my experience of The Gurkha Justice Campaign that every single petition signature, email, letter really does count. I urge everyone who cares about maternity in Maidstone to get behind us."

A Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust spokesman said: "It is important to stress that the vast majority of women's and children's services will remain at Maidstone."

"These will include all existing outpatient services, antenatal and day case surgery, plus a new midwifery led birthing unit."

"The changes being made in 2011 will raise standards of care for women and children considerably, but we recognise people's concerns and are happy to discuss the proposals with Peter Carroll or anyone else."

Crimewatch's Rav is Strictly dancer

CRIMEWATCH UK presenter Rav Wilding has been revealed as one of the contestants for the next series of BBC TV's Strictly Come Dancing.

Mr Wilding, who was born in Canterbury and now lives in Maidstone, has been paired with the show's new professional dancer, Aliona Vilani.

Talking to the BBC, he said: "I've taken part in Strictly Come Dancing this year because I love a good challenge and love learning new skills, so this is really exciting for me."

"Dancing is completely alien to me as I have never ever set foot on a dance floor in my life."

"I don't drink now, so I can't even claim to have drunkenly staggered on to a dance floor in recent years."

Mr Wilding has presented Crimewatch since 2004 and up until 2008 he also worked as a detective constable for the Metropolitan Police, but took a sabbatical to focus on television work.

He continues to present Crimewatch with Kirsty Young and Matthew Amroliwal, but is also a regular crime reporter on the BBC's One Show.

He will be competing on the dance floor with 15 other celebrity contest-



HOTFOOT: Rav Wilding with Aliona Vilani

ants and their professional partners when the show airs this month.

The full line-up features Mr Wilding, Footballers' Wives actresses Zoe Lucker and Laila Rouass, former EastEnders Natalie Cassidy and Ricky Groves, Loose Women regular Lynda Bellingham, BBC Breakfast presenter Chris Ollins, Hollyoaks actor Ricky Whittle, Ali Bastian from The Bill, Coronation Street's Craig Kelly, and Jo Wood, the estranged wife of Rolling Stone's guitarist Ronnie Wood.

Representing the world of sport on the show are jockey Richard Dunwoody, boxer Joe Calzaghe, cricketer Phil Tufnell, tennis ace Martina Hingis and Olympic athlete Jade Johnson.

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Man claims taunts led to brutal attack

VICIOUS drunk John Flack beat up his wife, watched by a group of children, a court was told.

Flack of Tyler Hill, Blean, repeatedly punched his wife Nicola and tried to smother her with a pillow.

Canterbury magistrates heard Flack was supposed to go to a birthday party but decided to stay at home. He was given £10 to spend on anti-depressants but spent the cash on vodka instead.

Julie Farbrace, prosecuting, said when Nicola got home, Flack slammed her against a wall and grabbed her by the throat. Later he pushed her on to a sofa and tried to smother her. One of the children called police.

Flack, 36, is already subject to a two-year community order imposed for a similar attack last year. He told police he suspected his wife was having an affair and she taunted him about it.

He admitted the attack and the case was adjourned until September 17.

Brits abroad 'an embarrassment'

MORE than eight out of ten people from Kent said in a survey they were embarrassed by the behaviour of Brits abroad.

This summer has seen reports of British revellers urinating against a historical monument in Latvia's capital Riga, and a teenager expelled from Turkey for exposing himself and swearing at a statue of the nation's founder.

Foreign Office figures published this week revealed that alcohol contributed to many of the 6,919 arrests and 3,146 hospitalisations of Britons worldwide between April 2008 and March this year.

CAMRA says no to beer in plastic cups

THE Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA) in Kent wants to save the traditional beer glass.

The Home Office has commissioned designers to transform the traditional glass into a shatter-proof holder in an effort to combat the 5,500 reported cases of attacks where glasses and bottles are used as weapons each year.

But CAMRA regional director Kae Mendham said: "There are some very good plastic alternatives that fit in a hand the same way a glass does."

"But we would not want total coverage of plastic holders. If you stay inside the premises and drink, it should be out of a glass. It's traditional."

Working to change lives for the better



TODAY marks the beginning of a series of articles taking a behind-the-scenes look at Kent Police.

For every crime there is a victim and for every incident attended by one of our 3,640 police officers, there are repercussions that need to be addressed.

Our police officers are responsible for protecting 1.65 million people in Kent and Medway.

We intend to look behind the headlines and discover the challenges they face.

We will meet people whose lives have changed due to the drug menace and look at how Kent Police have helped rebuild their lives – and chase the menace from our streets.

We will find out how some of the £257 million a year of taxpayers' money is spent, which will help you have a greater understanding of what goes on and why Kent is one of the safest places in the UK.

We will find out some of the measures that are in place to prevent crime and discover some of the technology which is used to make all of our lives safer.

And we will give you the chance to put questions to our Chief Constable Michael Fuller, who has laid out targets for improvement over the next three years.

He said: "There have been significant improvements in our performance over the last two years, which have ensured Kent and Medway remain among the safest places in the country."

Chief Constable Fuller wants our police force to be seen as the best in Britain.

"Our ambition is not only to improve the service we deliver to residents, but to provide an unrivalled service compared to other forces."

Targets include reducing crime and anti-social behaviour and ensuring a high detection rate. A key target is to increase visibility of police officers, to see that public confidence continues to improve and to ensure victims of crime are properly dealt with.

Read our articles in the coming weeks and make your own mind up.

If there are questions you would like us to pose to the police, write to A Safer Kent, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeth, Ashford, TN25 6SR, or email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk.



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DEDICATED: Each policing district in Kent will have its own Neighbourhood Task Team to solve problems

Teams move in to stamp out local problems

THE full force of a drive across Kent to crack down on crime and anti-social behaviour is about to be felt.

From this week, 14 Neighbourhood Task Teams will be on the county's streets, tackling the problems residents have identified as priorities.

Kent Police first piloted the Neighbourhood Task Teams at the end of 2007 and in September, 2008, the trial was extended to provide six teams across the county – one in each policing area.

They proved so successful that the number is about to increase to 14, with one team for each district and two for Medway.

Each team has a sergeant and five constables, who will provide a rapid response to community concerns.

Assistant Chief Constable Gary Beautridge said: "Neighbourhood Task Teams have proved a great success since they were introduced, reducing crime wherever they work.

"The new ones mean each police district will have its own dedicated response team that is able to act fast when people highlight problems.

"It's part of our commitment to improve the quality of life for everyone in Kent and make our county an even better place to live."

They will go where their help is most needed, moving into an area to support local officers, tackle offenders and find long-term solutions to concerns raised by residents.

They will concentrate on some of the significant issues, such as criminal damage and anti-social behaviour.

Ann Barnes, chair of the Kent Police Authority, said: "The shift to one team per policing district is good news for residents.

"It is clear from our research that the teams are reducing crime and anti-social behaviour, with knock-on improvements to the quality of life for residents."

The force says the investment is worth every penny because of the amazing results the teams bring.

The recent use of a Neighbourhood Task Team resulted in a 26 per cent reduction in anti-social behaviour calls and a 40 per cent reduction in recorded criminal damage. The team's visit also resulted in more than 30 arrests.

A survey following their use showed 91 per cent of those questioned felt more confident in the police, compared to 73 per cent before the team arrived.

Solutions

Insp Bill Willis, who is in charge of the teams, said: "What makes us unique is that we are the only force to have these teams at a district level and with this scale of staffing.

"A team can go into an area where there is anti-social behaviour and over a period of time solve the problem and deal with offenders. It's about finding long-term solutions."

The police work with local authorities and other partners to decide where the task teams should be sent, acting in response to problems identified by local people, and they can be moved in very quickly.

Assistant Chief Constable Gary Beautridge added: "It's a simple philosophy – You said, We did."

Speed recruiting session a big hit with employers

FIRST it was all about finding love and fast.

Now employers are following in the footsteps of speed dating with what has been dubbed 'speed recruiting'.

A training firm tried the recruitment experiment in Ramsgate recently, and as a result 11 people found employment.

In the trial saw six employers saw about 30 job applicants in five-minute interviews.

Once a job-seeker has finished one meeting they move round the room to the next employer and at the end of the session those who have made a good impression are offered a follow-up job interview.

The pioneering scheme, run by the company TNG, aims to help people who have problems getting back to work, including single parents, ex-offenders and the long-term unemployed.

All the applicants enrolled on a pre-employment training programme, run by the Ramsgate firm, which helps them to prepare CVs and approach interviews.

Among the firms at the first session were retail outlet Matalan and double-glazing company Piper Windows.

Louise Hampton, 29, from Ramsgate, found a job after three years unemployed.

She said: "It was a great experience. Now I'm working at Matalan and I love my job."

Heidi Griffin, TNG operations manager for Kent, said: "These events give our learners a chance to practise their interview techniques in real situations."

Claire Weare, store manager at Matalan said: "TNG supplied a good volume of good quality candidates.

"It saved us a lot of time scouring CVs, and making managers available for lots of interviews.

"We have employed five people as a result of the events and think it's a great way of finding new employees."

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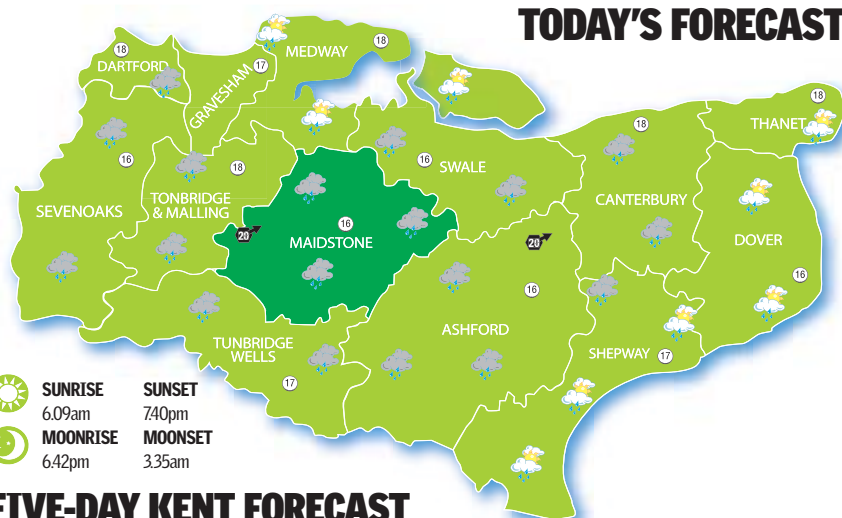
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Chatham	Saturday	2:08pm	6.0m
	Sunday	2:39pm	6.0m
Dover	Saturday	12:21pm	6.6m
	Sunday	12:50pm	6.7m
Dungeness	Saturday	12:24pm	7.6m
	Sunday	12:54pm	7.8m
Ramsgate	Saturday	12:51pm	5.0m
	Sunday	1:20pm	5.1m
Sheerness	Saturday	1:58pm	5.7m
	Sunday	2:29pm	5.8m
Whitstable	Saturday	1:58pm	5.2m
	Sunday	2:26pm	5.2m



AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	24°C	Madrid	33°C
Athens	30°C	New York	25°C
Barcelona	27°C	Paris	27°C
Beijing	25°C	Rome	31°C
Bombay	30°C	Sydney	20°C
Cape Town	23°C	Tenerife	25°C
Cardiff	18°C	Tokyo	19°C
Gibraltar	27°C	Vancouver	20°C
Hong Kong	33°C	Warsaw	20°C
Las Palmas	26°C	Wellington	10°C

SUNRISE
6.09am
MOONRISE
6.42pm

SUNSET
7.40pm
MOONSET
3.35am

FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon		Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
Ashford	20°C	18°C	18°C	18°C	18°C	Gravesend	22°C	20°C	19°C	19°C	19°C
Canterbury	22°C	19°C	19°C	18°C	19°C	Maidstone	22°C	19°C	19°C	18°C	19°C
Chatham	21°C	19°C	19°C	18°C	18°C	Ramsgate	22°C	19°C	19°C	18°C	19°C
Dartford	22°C	20°C	19°C	19°C	19°C	Rochester	21°C	19°C	19°C	18°C	18°C
Dover	20°C	17°C	17°C	17°C	18°C	Sevenoaks	19°C	17°C	17°C	17°C	17°C
Faversham	21°C	19°C	19°C	18°C	18°C	Sittingbourne	21°C	19°C	19°C	18°C	18°C
Folkestone	20°C	17°C	17°C	17°C	18°C	Tonbridge	21°C	19°C	18°C	18°C	19°C
Gillingham	21°C	19°C	19°C	18°C	18°C	Tun Wells	21°C	19°C	18°C	18°C	19°C



THIN: The labrador-lurcher cross found in Maidstone

Walker finds starving dog in county town

A STARVING dog has been handed into the RSPCA after he was found wandering the streets of the county town.

The shockingly-thin golden dog, which is believed to be a labrador-lurcher cross, was found by a walker in Vinters Valley, off New Cut Road, in Maidstone, on Saturday, August 22.

The walker took the dog, who is called Roley, to the Leybourne RSPCA animal centre.

RSPCA Inspector Miranda Albinson said: "We would like to try and find the owner of this dog."

"Hopefully somebody may recognise the dog or collar."

"The vet believes that this dog is around six to eight years old. He was in an absolutely appalling condition, so thin and weak."

The starving dog was wearing a fake, black leather collar with small diamante bows, and a blue bow-shaped tag with his name on it.

Anyone with information is asked to contact the RSPCA on 0300 123 4999.

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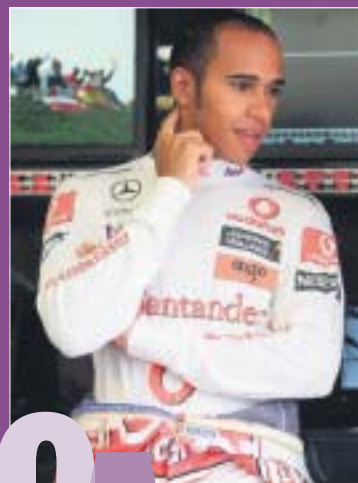
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QUESTION & ANSWER

LEWIS HAMILTON



Q What do you think about the DTM (the German Touring Car Championship)?

A DTM is really fantastic! I was involved with the DTM when I competed in the F3 Euro Series supporting races back in 2004 and 2005. DTM racing is always pretty exciting, and the atmosphere is open and welcoming. In 2008 I also had time to visit the DTM race at Brands Hatch and to support my Mercedes-Benz colleagues – it was a great event. The drivers get close to the fans, as they can buy tickets for the paddock. There is always something happening on and off the track, it is definitely worth coming down for the day.

Q Will the Brands Hatch Indy circuit be challenging for the DTM drivers?

A Definitely, it is a great track and they get to race 93 laps of the shorter Indy circuit. There is so much going on during a lap of the track because it is so short with so much packed into it that the drivers have no time at all to relax. I can always remember thinking the lap at Brands is over so quickly... the drivers will have to be very fit to stay focused in those hot DTM cockpits for 93 laps!

Q Have you ever raced in Formula 3 at Brands Hatch?

A I competed in a couple of races at the end of the 2003 season in the British F3 series at Brands Hatch, after I had won the Formula Renault title that year. Racing through Druids

in a F3 car was just awesome. Other sections of the track, such as when you go up the hill to Paddock Hill Bend are also fantastic, you can't see the corner and then when you plunge downhill on the exit, you hit this enormous compression. It is unlike any other track I have raced on. When I was in the F3 Euro Series, it didn't support the DTM at Brands Hatch, which was a shame. But with the British F3 races and the three victories I took at the track in Formula Renault in 2002 and 2003.

Q Do you know any of the DTM drivers personally?

A I know all of the Mercedes-Benz drivers as we often bump into each other during the year, but of course I know the British drivers that I competed against as we came up through the ranks better. For example, I raced with Susie Stoddart in Formula Renault, we shared the podium a couple of times. When I won my first Formula 3 race in 2004 at the Norisring, I finished just ahead of Jamie Green, the year when he won the Euro Series title. Gary Paffett is my team mate at Vodafone McLaren Mercedes, so we spend a lot of time working together. I used to do fitness training sessions with the Mercedes DTM guys. We are all so competitive; whatever part of the programme we were doing, so running, cycling and so on, we all wanted to win. I can remember the first session I went to, I was so much younger than the DTM guys and was there with legends like Bernd Schneider, I could-

n't believe it. But after a couple of hours, I soon found my competitive streak!

Q Which of the DTM drivers will be your favourite at Brands Hatch?

A I'll be supporting all the Mercedes-Benz DTM drivers, however a victory for a British driver in front of their home crowd would be fantastic so I'll be cheering on Paul, Jamie, Gary and Susie. I was fortunate to experience winning my home race in front of my home crowd at Silverstone in 2008, the atmosphere was something else, so it would be great to see that happen again at Brands Hatch.

Q Will you be available for the fans during the Sunday race day?

A Absolutely. Events like this give me the opportunity to spend time meeting fans and signing autographs. I am never able to sign as many as I would like, but I promise I do try! It is very important to me to have the chance to do this as the support I get from the fans is incredible and you must never take that for granted. I think I will be in the exhibition area (the paddock) for an interview on Sunday morning.

• **Tickets for DTM Brands Hatch on September 4/5/6 cost from £25 for adults, children aged 12 and under is free. You will require a pit/paddock pass in order to see Lewis' interview on Sunday morning. For more information call 0870 950 9000 or visit www.dtmbrandshatch.com.**

Q & A

He will be at Brands Hatch on Sunday for the British round of the German Touring Car Championship (DTM) and today Formula One World Champion Lewis Hamilton talks about the racing and meeting his fans

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Clash's Nick Headon opens an event for homeless charity. Search 'Headon'.



Kingfisher Trust boat trips for disabled people. Search 'Kingfisher'.

EDITOR'S CHOICE

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Withnail fan Tim buys Uncle Monty's cottage



CROW CRAG: Canterbury architect Tim Ellis, inset, is the new owner of Sleddale Hall, which features in cult movie *Withnail & I*, starring Richard E Grant and Paul McGann, below

THE Cumbrian cottage which featured in cult film *Withnail & I* has been snapped up by an architect from Canterbury.

Sleddale Hall, near Shap in the Lake District, was known in the film as Crow Crag, the home of *Withnail's* Uncle Monty.

It has been bought by Tim Ellis, 41, a conservation architect, for an undisclosed sum.

The building, which has been unoccupied for years, was auctioned in February amid worldwide interest from potential buyers and film fans.

The gavel came down at £265,000, £100,000 more than its starting price. But the sale later



fell through and Mr Ellis was contacted to see if he would like a second chance.

"I was rather excited," he said.

Mr Ellis hopes to restore the building as a house, although details remain under wraps while talks are ongoing.

"I first saw the film seven years ago and have been a fan ever since," he said.

"I'd like to restore the building in a way fans of the film would approve of.

"There's a lot of work to be done before I can draw up firm plans, but my intention is not to deprive Sleddale's many admirers of its links with its iconic past."

The film follows *Withnail*, played by Richard E Grant in his first film role, and Marwood (Paul McGann) two struggling London actors who escape to the country cottage for a holiday.

Help new team put the bite on loan sharks

A COUNTYWIDE clampdown on loan sharks has failed to bring one person to court four months after it started, leading to calls for more victims to come forward.

Kent County Council's trading standards service, the South East Illegal Monday Lending Team and Kent Police joined forces to launch a campaign against loan sharks in April. Four months on there have been no arrests and the partnership is keen to break people's silence on the crime.

Cllr Mike Hill, KCC's cabinet member for communities, said: "We are desperate for information but it is extremely difficult because people are not keen to give information."

Nationally the Stop Loan Sharks project has helped 10,000 victims, written off more than £30 million of illegal debt and secured more than 50 years in prison sentences since it began.

Violence

Last month, John Kiely from Manchester was sentenced to five years for charging poor families interest rates as high as 2,237 per cent on loans. One of his victims, a woman who borrowed £700, has been left on antidepressants and was forced to leave her home because of the intimidation and violence inflicted on her and her family.

In March, Cheshire loan shark Paul Nicholson, who raped, blackmailed and threatened his victims, was jailed indefinitely.

There are examples of people committing suicide because of loan sharks and the highest interest rate discovered was 117,000 per cent.

Cllr Hill said: "In desperation, rather like drug addiction, some people turn to burglary and stealing to pay back their loans."

In response to people struggling to get loans from legitimate sources due to the downturn, KCC is to launch its own credit union in October.

To report a loan shark, call Kent Police or KCC. Or call Stop Loan Shark's confidential 24/7 hotline on 0300 555 2222 and visit www.direct.gov.uk/stoploansharks.



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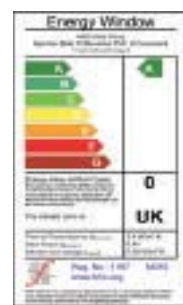
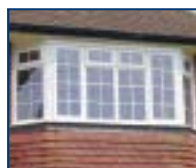
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Student 'ghettos' target of council's clampdown

■ BY RACHEL MCATHY

COUNCIL chiefs have backed calls for landlords to face tighter planning controls in a bid to clampdown on so-called 'student ghettos'.

Planning officials at Canterbury council have supported Government proposals to dilute the problems caused by swathes of major towns being rented to students.

In a bid to calm the 'studentification' of the likes of Canterbury – home to the University of Kent and Christ Church University – the Government has proposed landlords should be forced to obtain planning permission for a wider range of properties dubbed 'houses in multiple occupation' or HMOs.

Currently, regulations only apply to houses with six people or more. Canterbury council said residents were increasingly concerned about high student numbers. Issues raised included antisocial behaviour, litter and parking. Some expressed concern about the creation of 'ghost towns' during academic holidays.

After looking at the options during consultations, the council believes regulations are not tough enough to deal with the issue.

Kim Bennett, head of development at the council, said: "There is no doubt that in Canterbury, where the problem is particularly concentrated, there is continuing public concern about the social impact in particular streets or areas."

One of the options is to change the HMO definition to apply to property with three or more occupants, who are not members of the same family. It would then fall under plan-



CITY LIFE: Students bring many benefits, although parts of Canterbury have become 'ghettos', the council says

ning laws. This is the council's preferred option, despite the fact it cannot be applied to properties already occupied by students.

But the authority is doubtful its recommendation will be acted on.

"It is unlikely, given that such controls would apply nationally and that the evidence is the problems are concentrated in relatively small areas throughout the UK," Mr Bennett said.

The other option, and the council's fall-back choice, is to remove the requirement for HMOs to seek planning permission.

If there was then a problem locally, the power would fall to planning authorities to prevent development of such properties in particular areas. But Chris Norris, of the National Landlords' Association in the South East, said changing planning laws was not the way forward: "In Canterbury, we have a number of universities and colleges and areas of the city are particularly concentrated, so

there is the potential for problems.

"But the issue we have with the proposals is they address the property rather than the behaviour. There are better ways to tackle the behaviour of tenants, rather than slapping a stamp on a property," he said.

"And we doubt local authorities would be willing to allow that property to be changed back into a residential property later on. It could lead to greater housing shortages."

He said the association wanted councils to use their existing powers more effectively.

Dick Vane-Wright, of South Canterbury Residents' Association, said: "We are aware of problems in parts of the city. But one of our members, who lived on a street where there were problems, engaged with the students rather than complaining."

"They pointed out what sorts of problems the students were creating and it was very successful. We don't just need legislation – we need people to engage with their neighbours."

Record levels of debt on campus

STUDENTS starting degree courses in the county this month will be left with record level of debts totalling £24,000 by the end of their courses, according to latest research.

The figures emerged in a new survey, revealing it is now more costly than ever to enter higher education, fuelling fears that many people are being priced out of attending university. More than 2,000 students were quizzed on their financial outlay for the forthcoming years, with the average debt per year coming in at £5,000, plus £3,000 a year in tuition fees.

Kent has also emerged as one of the most expensive places in the county to study. According to latest research, Canterbury was listed within the top ten costliest cities for students. Average rents were reported as being £72 a week.



Recession

Chatham follows close behind, costing £61 a week, placing a further strain on teenagers' limited budgets. But with a background of recession, admission to universities has been overstretched, despite the costs.

With jobs at a premium, more students are keen to build up their qualifications rather than take the plunge into the employment market at such a troubled time.

President of the Students' Union at the University of Kent, Helen Wood, said the union was working hard to support its student population, which includes campuses around the county.

She said: "Debt is an issue for students and we have a lot going on at the university where we can advise people."

"There's a team of advisers at our Canterbury campus and we also run a Money Doctor service to help students with their finances. I'm certainly glad I did my university course, it had always been my ambition to study and the cost of it didn't put me off."

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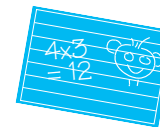


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BREAK TIME

A-grade success for hard working boys

TOP performing students at a Maidstone grammar school were all smiles when they received their GCSE results.

The year 11 boys at Oakwood Park Grammar School got their results on Thursday morning.

Among those celebrating were a number of pupils with outstanding results, including Alex Caine, 16, from Barming, who scored ten A*s and one A.

Fellow student Robert Hollands also achieved ten A*s and one A.

Tolulpe Akanbi-Onasanya, Thomas Crickmore, Daniel Crittenden and Michael Turner both got eight A*s.

Headteacher Kevin Moody said: "I am thrilled with these results."

Results break all the records, again

PUPILS at Wrotham School celebrated record-breaking GCSE results.

The results released on Thursday showed 83 per cent of students at the school in Wrotham had achieved five A* to C GCSE grades.

The school also achieved a record 102 grade A and A*, which was almost double the number of top grades than in 2008.

The marks mean the school has beaten its best GCSE achievement for the third year running.

Headteacher David Day said: "This is a monumental day."

Top achievers were Samantha Payne with ten A or A*s, Matt Haley with nine, Zoe Gillard eight, and Lucy Crighton, Jason Kohler and Tom Barton with seven.

Outstanding achievements by some outstanding girls

■ BY ANNA WHITE

GIRLS at a top grammar school were celebrating after getting excellent GCSE results.

The pupils at Maidstone Girls Grammar School, in Buckland Road, tore open the brown envelopes containing their results in front of friends and teachers on Thursday morning.

The hardworking youngsters were ecstatic to find they had achieved top results and that more than half of the year group have received at least five A* or A grades.

Out of the entire year, 47 students achieved at least ten A* or A grades. Overall 57 per cent of all grades were A*s or As.

Sarah Piggott, 16, from Bearsted, gained five A*s and seven As, she said: "I was so nervous about coming to get my results today."

"I haven't been able to sleep for the past three nights because I have been so nervous and excited."

"I just feel so happy and relieved. I am really pleased with my results and looking forward to starting sixth form in September."

Lydia Payle, also 16 and from Bearsted, said: "I got four A*s and five As, so I am really happy. I had to work really hard for the exams so I'm pleased it all paid off."

Headteacher Mary Smith said: "This is an outstanding set of results for the school in the year when Ofsted has judged the school as 'outstanding'."

"We are thrilled for our students. Watching their joy as they open their results envelopes is immensely rewarding."

"I would like to congratulate all our students



Picture: ANNA WHITE

HARD WORK PAYS OFF: Lydia Payle, Sarah Piggott and Hannah Lloyd are all thrilled with their outstanding results

and also the staff who work so hard for them."

Mrs Smith added that the majority of the students have taken-up places to the school's sixth form to study A-levels.

She added: "I am extremely pleased for all the students, they have worked so hard to achieve this, and it is great that most of them will be continuing their hard work in our sixth form."

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Gary Wright in praise of the policeman who dared to say what most people thought anyway about CCTV



Well done to the police officer who admits CCTV doesn't help

SO, a top policeman admits what we all actually feared: CCTV cameras don't really work.

Mick Neville, a Detective Chief Inspector with the Met, said for every 1,000 cameras in Britain, one crime gets solved. Just one crime.

There are a lot of cameras mind – about a million of them in London alone says DCI Neville. That works out one camera for every eight residents, which seems a little extreme.

Our government has spent half a billion pounds on CCTV, seeing it as a catch-all protector for the law-abiding majority. Our local councils – who should really be sweeping the streets and collecting rubbish – can't get enough of them either. But what's the point?

Britain is recognised around the world as being the most spied on. In London it's calculated that the average person gets filmed by 300 different cameras every day.

Wherever you are these days the chances are you are being filmed. It got out of hand about 15 years ago as too many people in

power saw CCTV cameras as a cheap and easy way to make us feel safe. In fact for most of us it doesn't do any such thing.

You see the problem is someone in a distant control room has to monitor the images... and you have to wonder what sort of person WANTS a job like that.

Over the years as a journalist I've lost count of the number of complaints to newspapers (normally from women) about cameras possibly being misused by camera operators.

And when something interesting does happen, all too often the control room misses it anyway (probably because they're gazing through bedroom windows).

I'll agree that some CCTV films can be pretty interesting (and funny), especially now they are in such good quality colour.

There are almost a dozen satellite TV channels which would probably disappear if they couldn't rely on a regular supply of CCTV footage showing ordinary people doing extraordinary things.

But for every street mugger who is spotted on town centre CCTV (and subsequently

escapes) or a car that accidentally drives through a plate glass shop window, there seems to me a tale of woe, like the homeless fella in Ashford last year who died while he was being filmed by CCTV, and no one noticed for hours.

Surely the answer is simple: Put a stop to using CCTV as a knee-jerk reaction to perceived threat, which at least one respected police officer believes doesn't work anyway, before we are stuck in a Big Brother-style state.

The spread of speed cameras at roadsides throughout the UK seems to have been halted in some areas the limitations were realised, you see not everyone's convinced they prevent crashes.

(And have you noticed how the number have fines has dropped dramatically since operators were told a year ago they couldn't keep the cash?)

So, let's reach the same clear-thinking with CCTV cameras. Use them where they are tried and tested, but give us more police officers in neighbourhoods to help prevent crime which is proven to work... and there are signs it is already happening (see page 4).

GET IN TOUCH...

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COLDPLAY



COLDPLAY's Wembley Stadium gigs in September are already sold out, but KOS Media has a pair of tickets to ensure you don't miss out.

As part of their 2009 summer tour the band are due at the stadium on Friday and Saturday, September 18-19 in what will be the band's biggest ever UK headline shows.

It has been announced Coldplay will now be supported by Girls Aloud and Jay Z on both dates at Wembley Stadium.

The acts had previously only been booked to each play one of the two dates at the London venue, but will now share the support bill.

Coldplay's website also said London rockers White Lies would be providing additional support at both shows.

The band's UK leg of their tour begins on Saturday, September 12, in Manchester. The tour, which

began in Florida in May, finishes at Wembley Stadium with these two sold out gigs.

Coldplay announced earlier last month they would give away CDs of their new live album *LeftRightLeftRightLeft* at every remaining live show in 2009, as well as making it available as a free download from their website.

To be in with a chance of winning a pair of tickets to the Saturday show, answer this question:

Which month is Coldplay playing at Wembley Stadium?

a) September b) October c) December

To enter, simply text your answer either 'win A' 'win B' or 'win C' to 80012.

Entrants must put 'Win' before either the winning answer A,B or C.

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TALK TIME

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How can people request such a visit?

They can call us on the number 0800 923 7000 or call in to the central headquarters in Maidstone. Alternatively they can just go along to their nearest fire station and put in a request which we will be happy to comply with.

Where do you operate?

All over the county, it doesn't matter where people live. Anyone in Kent can request a visit.

YOUR LETTERS



Services are going down the toilet

I am saddened and angered by this news of proposed public toilet closures.

I have a bowel problem and have to plan journeys according to toilet availability.

Life is difficult enough for so many of us. What kind of people are they, that they would take away such a basic human need?

Caroline Rivers, from Maidstone, comment posted on web story at www.yourmaidstone.co.uk

Sack bureaucrats then we'll be flush

I think it is ridiculous to even consider closing public toilets.

Surely shutting public conveniences will just lead to more people urinating against trees or against walls in alleyways, which is unhygienic and not very pleasant to see.

If our council tax cannot pay for public loos – which are a public service – what are they for?

Why not get rid of a few bureaucrats and use the money to give us nice well-kept toilets.

Ben Matthews, from Maidstone, comment posted on web story at www.yourmaidstone.co.uk



COMMENT ONLINE TOO

NOT only can you use email and letters to respond to our stories, don't forget you can comment via our website too.

Beneath most stories on the www.yourmaidstone.co.uk website there is the facility to leave your comments on whatever YOU thought of the online article. To leave your remarks, simply click on the 'Add your comments' link and tell us what you think. And remember, www.yourmaidstone.co.uk is updated daily, bringing you the latest, breaking news from across Maidstone as well as our villages. We will include the best on these pages too – ensuring your comments reach the widest possible audience.

In addition, if you find your newsagent, supermarket or petrol station runs out of YourMaidstone before you've picked up your copy, you never need to miss out. On www.yourmaidstone.co.uk you can access, for free, the full newspaper in our highly acclaimed e-editions.

Train prices are just not fare

I completely agree. Southeastern is a joke, the off peak tickets are

scandalously expensive – just compare them to Southern (which is owned by the same company but managed by someone with a better understanding of economics!).

The peak trains are overcrowd-

ed, always late (no matter what their fudged figures state) and we are paying 15 to 30 per cent of our take home pay to use this monopoly service.

We have no choice and no one cares, they continue to fleece us because they know they can. Arrrgggghh!!!

Sarah Samwell, from Rochester, comment posted on web story at www.yourmaidstone.co.uk



When is Kent on track for reduction?

The issue about rail fares is one that continues to frustrate and annoy.

At a time when successive Government initiatives all say that people should get on public transport and leave their cars at home we hear that the local network will not have to reduce its fares.

This is absurd as it is one of the most profitable in the country. Commuters in Kent must account for a massive amount of revenue.

If those in power are serious about getting more people on to the trains they should make them more cost effective.

This it seems they are doing elsewhere but not in Kent.

Bryan Poulter, by email

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Government promise went off the rails

As news that Southeastern is exempt from next year's cuts in rail fares came in, investment bank UBS revealed that British rail fares are the highest in the world.

This means Kent and Medway are hit twice – once by missing out on a fares cut and again by the UK's excessive rail fares.

So now its official, we have the highest rail fares in the world.

And in Kent we will not even benefit by the rail fares cut caused by the drop in inflation.

The botched privatisation of our railways has not brought the consumer benefits we were promised.

Kent's traffic congestion is a testament to the high cost of rail (and bus) fares and a general failure to cut greenhouse gas emissions.

We desperately need a new Kent Local Transport Plan to cut congestion and air pollution.

It should focus on creating a road user hierarchy – walking, cycling, buses, first to encourage more people to use their cars less.

But for a lot of journeys, cheaper rail services are essential.

More than ten years of talk by the Government about 'sustainable' transport has been accompanied by under-investment in our railways.

It is possible to move people and goods without putting more carbon into our atmosphere.

Joined-up investment is needed

from the Government, Medway Council and Kent County Council, not more roads.

Dr Hazel Dawe, chair of Kent Green Party, by email

A healthy interest in the Great South Run

I am writing to let your readers know that we still have places in the Great South Run this year.

Taking place on October 25, the ten-mile course is suitable whether you have been running for some time or a beginner looking to take on a new challenge.

It is also a great way to raise money for World Cancer Research Fund (WCRF).

Scientists estimate that about a third of the most common cancers could be prevented by being physically active, following a healthy diet and maintaining a healthy weight.

So not only will training for and taking part in the Great South Run help you can get into the kind of habits that can reduce your own cancer risk, but the money raised will help us continue to fund research into the link between lifestyle and cancer.

If you are interested in taking part in this year's Great South Run, visit www.wcrf-uk.org/fundraising or call 0207 343 4200.

Do hurry, because places are going fast!

Natalie Tarrant, events manager for World Cancer Research Fund, by email

You can help save endangered animals

Volunteers are needed to help Earthwatch scientists save leatherback sea turtles from extinction at one of the most important remaining nesting beaches in the world.

In Las Baulas National Park, Guanacaste province, Costa Rica, you will monitor nesting leatherbacks, measure and tag them, record nest locations and count eggs.

Spaces are available on nine-day teams on Costa Rican Sea Turtles from October 2009 to February 2010, costing £1,425.

We also need volunteers in the Peruvian Amazon to help conserve pink dolphins, giant river otters, monkeys, turtles and other wildlife.

Spaces are available on 15-day teams on Amazon Riverboat Exploration in September, November and December 2009, costing £1,895-£1,995.

Getting involved in hands-on conservation in some of the most beautiful and remote parts of the planet is a fantastic opportunity for anyone wanting to make a difference and help protect wildlife.

To join one of our 2009 expeditions, or one of our 350 expeditions to 61 research projects worldwide, call 01865 318831, email projects@earthwatch.org.uk, or visit www.earthwatch.org/europe.

Tom Berry, expedition consultant for Earthwatch, by email

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THE streets of Faversham will be alive with the sound of music and revelry at the 19th annual International Hop Festival.

As a celebration of the hop harvest, the festival has become an enormously popular event in Kent and attracts performers from all over the country.

A truly international festival, this year it welcomes performances by foreign acts including Belgium folk-rock band, Folia. Audiences can also look forward to festival favourites, The Blue Devils, who will be joined

by Steeleye Span's Liam Genocky on drums.

Another highlight will be The Prague Castle Orchestra, who were actually performing outside Prague's castle when asked if they would like to visit the UK.

Free music can be enjoyed on live stages and in pubs throughout the town, while Faversham's streets will be thronging with outdoor entertainers, attractions and children's activities. Shoppers might find some bargains on the many craft stalls that will line Preston Street, West Street, East Street and Market Place, selling everything from pottery and ethnic clothing to books and toys.

Organised by the Faversham Hop Festival Committee and supported by Swale council, the festival boasts live music stages in Preston Street and outside the Guildhall. People will have the chance to kick up their heels at the ceilidh, browse the craft fair at the ceilidh, browse the craft fair at the Alexander Centre and enjoy music to please an eclectic variety of tastes.

Festival-goers can look forward to being entertained by stilt walkers and Morris sides, while the atmospheric smell of hops lingers in the air and provides an indelible connection with the area's agricultural heritage.

The event celebrates the tradition of hop picking which, in its heyday, attracted thousands of Londoners to Kent for the hop harvest.

Generations of families would often return to the same farm year after year, joining forces with local workers to create a giant agricultural workforce.

Hop pickers enjoyed a rare camaraderie as they laboured, exchanging songs and stories while they worked. The day's hard labour would be followed by drinking, music and games as they relaxed in the evenings.

Full festival listings can be found in the programmes which are available from pubs and retail outlets across the town, priced at £1.

INTERNATIONAL HOP FESTIVAL

Saturday, September 5 and
Sunday, September 6
Town Centre, Faversham



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PLANT TO PLATE FOOD FESTIVAL

Saturday, September 5 and
Sunday, September 6
Leeds Castle, near Maidstone

GET a taste of the best local produce at Leeds Castle's Plant to Plate Food Festival.

Visitors will be able to sample the delicious foods produced in the Garden of England and find out more about what is on offer from local businesses. Taking place on the castle's beautiful Cedar Lawn, the festival provides a chance for people to taste a wide variety of food and drink.

Learn to improve your skills in the kitchen with the cookery demonstrations and pick up some top tips from the experts. Leeds Castle's own caterers, Leith's, will show spectators how to prepare the perfect paella.

Anyone who is keen to grow their own produce can get advice about home-growing and there will be plenty to do between demonstrations. Visitors can browse the stalls offering a wide selection of breads, organic meats, cheeses, cakes and preserves, many of which have been produced locally. Live music will help to make the event go with a swing and contribute to the alfresco picnic atmosphere.



Picture: LEEDS CASTLE FOUNDATION

For more information call the castle on 01622 765400 or visit www.leeds-castle.co.uk.

KIM RICHEY

Monday, September 7
The Loft, Maidstone



EXPERIENCE the critically-acclaimed sound of Kim Richey when she returns to Maidstone next week.

A gifted singer-songwriter, Richey's music has not achieved the commercial success it deserves, but she has consistently received high praise for her six albums. She made a name for herself as a songwriter for country artists such as Rodney Foster, Trisha Yearwood and George Ducas, but has also pursued a solo career in her own right.

A couple of years ago, Richey moved to London to do some co-writing and now has songs waiting to be recorded by singers like Ronan Keating. She has also worked with Giles Martin, son of Beatles producer George Martin, on her latest album, Chinese Boxes.

Her special guest will be singer-songwriter Martha Scanlan, a city girl born-and-bred who impulsively moved to East Tennessee to be closer to the Appalachian music she loved. She combines her beautiful voice with clever lyrics and brings the sound of America's wide open spaces to any audience.

The concert starts at 7.45pm and tickets cost £14/£12. To book call Maverick on 01622 744481.



DOLCE VITA

Thursday, September 3
Trinity Theatre, Tunbridge Wells

AN UNUSUAL love story is played out against the backdrop of the circus in new play, Dolce Vita.

Inspired by the films of Federico Fellini and Charlie Chaplin, Dolce Vita is a 'tour de force' that will sweep the audience up with its thrilling display of circus skills. But it also celebrates the simple art of storytelling with a tale of love and forgiveness.

As top billing on the variety circuit, the Great Tourrinos loved their life on the road until tragedy struck one dreadful night. Years later, they are reunited for just one evening to entertain the crowd with their performance skills and their memories.

The show stars Chris Barnes and writer Siobhán Nicholas, who has many stage and screen credits as



an actress. Barnes spent two years working with Barnum and Bailey's Circus in the US and his acting work has taken him all over the world, including London's National

Theatre.

The show starts at 8pm and tickets cost £11.50/£9.50/£6. Book online at www.trinitytheatre.net or call 01892 678678.

MAIDSTONE LEISURE

Join in and make a multi-cultural collage

ALL the family can contribute to the Maidstone Mela collage this weekend.

On Saturday Maidstone Museum is inviting people to make the collage to mark Maidstone Mela, a multi-cultural celebration that will be held in Mote Park on September 12 and 13. Two-hour sessions start at 10.30am and 1.30pm and cost £1. For details call 01622 602838 or www.museum.maidstone.gov.uk.

Collectors make your way to the showground

BARGAIN hunters could be in luck as the Kent Showground at Detling hosts the DMG International Antiques and Collectors Fair.

The fair runs from 8.30am to 5pm on Saturday and 10am to 4pm on Sunday. Admission costs £6 before 10am and £4.50 after 10am and on Sunday.

Call 01636 702326 or visit www.dmgantiquefairs.com.

Make it your business to listen to great rock

STEP back in time to the golden era of rock when Any Other Business performs in Maidstone.

The three-piece plays songs from the 60s and 70s, paying tribute to some of the greats of rock music. Find out more at www.myspace.com/aobrock.

Any Other Business will be playing at the Druids Arms in Earl Street at 9pm on Saturday. Call 01622 758516.

Get your rock live at Earls in Maidstone

MODERN and classic rock cover versions can be heard live at a pub in Maidstone on Sunday.

OGWA is a five/six-piece band that plays a variety of material and occasionally its own songs. See them online at www.ogwa.net. The band will be performing at Earls in Earl Street at 6pm.

Call 01622 751286 or visit www.earls-maidstone.co.uk.

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Forum lines up winter gigs

BY SIMON ROBINSON

ON paper, the Tunbridge Wells Forum makes an unlikely venue for all things rock and roll.

First things first, The Forum is situated in well-to-do Tunbridge Wells, where the average house price costs more than the debt of a third world country.

Blood, sweat and tears indie rock doesn't sit comfortably with the area's middle-class money.

Secondly, The Forum is a thatch roof away from a rural barn.

Its hilltop location says 'weekend break' rather than gig-of-your-life.

And yet The Forum is arguably one of Kent's foremost music venues.

The likes of Green Day, Coldplay, The Libertines, Oasis, Muse, Placebo and Stereophonics are among the greats to have graced its stage.

Heck, even Toploader played there. Toploader. Remember 'Dancing in the Moonlight'? Yeah, Toploader.

The venue has lined up a number of bands



COMING TO A FORUM NEAR YOU: (Top, from left) Sonic Boom; The Holloways; (above) The Cheek

hoping to follow in the footsteps of those '90s heavyweights (Toploader excluded) and make the big time.

These hopefuls include Sheffield-based folk/pop duo Slow Club, Manchester punk/rock upstarts The Sonic Boom Six and

cheeky indie stars The Cheek.

November sees The Holloways come to town. The London quartet – famed for hits such as Two Left Feet and Generator – thought they were on the road to fame and fortune in 2007, but a label meltdown and loss of two band members derailed their efforts for a year.

Now they're back and once again hoping to take over the world with their radio-friendly sing-along indie tracks.

For more on The Forum and its winter line-up, visit www.twforum.co.uk.

LINE UP:

- **Blakfish** – Saturday, September 12
- **Zico Chain** – Friday, September 18
- **Slow Club** – Friday, September 25
- **Sky Larkin** – Friday, October 2
- **Mumford and Sons** – Saturday, October 3
- **Sonic Boom Six with The Skints** – Tuesday, October 6
- **The Cheek** – Friday, October 16
- **You Love Her Coz She's Dead** – Thursday, October 29
- **The Holloways** – Friday, November 6

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AIMING HIGH: Josh Weller performs his song She Shot Me in Canterbury



GOING UP: UpCDownC are currently being featured on The Ether



TOP FIVE KENT GIGS

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- 2 D-Finitive - 19/9 The Star Gillingham
- 3 Euston - 25/9 The Hope Inn St. Margaret's
- 4 Shadow Aspect - 3/10 The Swan & Mitre Bromley
- 5 Directions - 16/10 The Firs Club Folkestone



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Info@Broadstairsfoodfestival.org.uk or see
www.BroadstairsFoodFestival.org.uk



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Cady lace-up boots, price £85 (in store end of Sept)

MAIDSTONE SHOPPING

Sign up to meet some stars with new books

BIG names from the worlds of comedy and cookery will be appearing at Waterstone's this week.

At 2.30pm on Saturday, Charlie Higson of Fast Show fame visits the store at Bluewater to sign copies of his new children's horror book, The Enemy.

On Tuesday celebrity chef and Saturday Kitchen presenter, James Martin, will sign copies of his new book, My Kitchen, from 5pm. For more information call the store on 01322 624831.

Raise a glass to wines from around the world

EMBARC on a round the world adventure via the taste buds at Waitrose.

Customers are being encouraged to be more adventurous during the Waitrose World of Wine Showcase. Wine lovers can sample tipples from popular grape-growing countries as well as more unusual places like Morocco.

There are some special discounts to enjoy on the 48 wines in the promotion, which runs until September 27. See www.waitrose.co.uk or pop in store.

Classy Myleene drops by to launch collection

PICK up some celebrity style tips when Myleene Klass visits Bluewater.

The Marks & Spencer model is touring stores across the country to help launch the company's new Indigo Collection, a range of stylish casual wear for women.

Klass will arrive at Marks & Spencer at 10.30am tomorrow and the style session will begin at 11am.

For more information about this and other Bluewater events visit the website www.bluewater.co.uk.

Want the look for less? Then take a look online

BEAT the credit crunch by snapping up salon quality hair and beauty products online.

Discount website www.wanththelook.com offers top brands for reduced prices, including considerable savings on brands such as Aveda, Dermalogica, Paul Mitchell and L'Oreal Serie Expert.

At the time of writing, the site was offering a 40 per cent discount on all TIGI hair products.

See www.wanththelook.com.

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FOUR-LEGGED friends can be insured for less with Sainsbury's current pet insurance offer.

New customers can get three months' cover for free and a further 20 per cent online discount.

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The offer ends on October 6 and terms and conditions apply. For full details visit the website at www.sainsburys.co.uk.

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Fun-to-be-with, blonde female, 25, 5ft2, a woman who loves football! Enjoys going out and staying in, to be her soulmate. Box 446494 1

NOT YOUR BROWN-EYED GIRL, BUT...

Blue-eyed brunette, 27, 5ft1, loves films, walking, darts, pool, singing, me time! Looking for honest guy with GSOH, to get to know. Box 880105 1

YOURS AND YOURS ONLY

Attractive, down-to-earth British-Indian single mum, 29, WILTM white British male, 29-34, no lies, for long-term relationship. Box 883431

WAITING FOR YOU!

Tall curly, cuddly female, 32, brunette with green eyes, seeks tall, white, attractive, easygoing male for fun and possible LTR. Chatham Box 874763 1

IS ANYONE OUT THERE?

31yr old easygoing, independent female, WILTM cuddly fella to enjoy the finer things in life with, leading to LTR with the right person. Box 879931 1

GIVE AND TAKE IN LOVE

Loving lady female, 30, blue eyes, brown hair, seeking LTR with male 30-35, 6ft+, no baggage, in the Maidstone area. Box 448471 1

SEEKING MR DANCY

Warm, kind and sincere woman, 31, lots of love and loyalty for the right person, seeking an honest genuine man with a good heart. Box 451004 1

HORSES FOR COURSES...

Caring, loving, affectionate female, 30, 5'2", blonde, likes walking, horse riding, animals, seeks affectionate male, 30-40, for lasting, loving relationship. Box 384013 1

A FAIRYTALE ENDING!

Princess Fiona, 34, looking to meet her Shrek. 5ft8, short brown/blonde hair, blue eyes, large build, seeks romantic caring guy for friendship, maybe more! Box 877957 1

GOOD LUCK CHARM

Sporty female, 34, 5ft2, likes the gym, beach walks, Tennis and cycling, with similar male in his 30s for friendship in Eastbourne. Box 453712

FEAST YOUR EYES ON ME...

Hello I'm Andrea, 35, petite 5ft3, shoulder length curly hair, I enjoy eating out, cinema and I'm looking for friendship and possible long term relationship Box 453039 1

SOUND GOOD?

Hello I'm 35, kind, caring and non-smoking, enjoy cooking, cinema, music, dining in and out, looking for that special someone to enjoy a relationship with. Box 447595 1

HAPPY DAYS!

Attractive, fun-loving female, 31, 5'4", size 12, dark hair with blonde highlights, tactile, WILTM intelligent, professional, attractive guy, for a happy relationship. Tunbridge Wells. Box 308734 1

SEALED WITH A KISS

Petite lady, 36, long hair, blue eyes, single mum, enjoys holidays, wine and dining, laughing, seeks loyal, loving man for friendship and more. Box 453079 1

STARRY NIGHTS

Hello I'm Sarah, single mum from Kent, brown hair enjoy swimming nights in/out looking for a caring man to share the best thing in life. Box 878378

BE MINE

Honest and caring woman, 36, 5ft5, slim build, blue eyes. I'm caring, honest and have 4 children. I enjoy drives and horse riding. Maidstone. Box 456159 1

SOMETHING LASTING

Professional single man, 37, own home, looking for a man for friendship, hopefully a permanent relationship. Hailsham Box 456221 1

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A NICE BOTTLE OF WINE

Lovely, glossy brunette, 39yr old, petite, bubbly and loving, enjoys theatre, music and eating out, with a professional, loving and tactile male for a relationship. Box 442551 1

JOINED AT THE HIP

Sociable petite girl with great SOH, 40, blonde, sociable, love football! Looking for fun guy with great SOH for inseparable partnership. Box 880434 1

BETWEEN US

Asian lady, 41, single, no ties, outgoing, fun-loving, professional, looking for white male, genuine, professional and solvent. Box 451900 1

FOR A RELATIONSHIP?

Shy but confident-one-one-one-one female, a mum, 40, likes socialising, tennis, walks, swimming; seeks gent with similar interests to find helpful love with. Box 452106 1

I SHOULD BE SO LUCKY

Hello, I'm Karen, 42, dark brown hair, medium build, gosh, looking for a man with no issues and gosh who can enjoy life with me. Box 452204 1

LET'S DATE

Hard-working woman, 42, WILTM a nice and caring man to date and be happy with. Herne Bay Box 455327 1

LOVE IS ALL AROUND

Happy-go-lucky, bubbly blonde, 42, blue eyes, hard-working, love outings, looking for a nice, genuine guy for relationship. Bromley Box 454517

HELLO EVERYONE!

Single, downy, 42, fun-loving, kind and loyal, likes meals out, weekends away, country walks, WILTM a non-smoking guy to share it all with. Seaford Box 454569 1

ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE

Hello, I'm Nikki, 41yr young, 5ft1, enjoys dining out, cinema and dancing, seeking a male for friendship, possible romance and fun times. Box 444796 1

ACTIVE TYPE

Lively, energetic fun loving mum, 42, 5ft3, petite, pretty, blonde/brown hair, hazel eyes, WILTM honest, fun, mixed race/black gent, for lasting relationship. Box 451815 1

YOU NEVER KNOW

Kind, loving and caring mum, 43, 5ft5, round but cuddly! Just looking for someone to share my life with...how about you? Box 446457 1

TALL ORDER

Curly lady, 5ft8, 43yrs old, blonde hair/green eyes, I live in Deal in Kent, I'm down-to-earth and like being out and about. Box 456020 1

A CHANCE FOR ROMANCE

43yr old female, 5'9", short dark hair/blue eyes, slim, have a grown up daughter, love the outdoors, cooking, good food, music, animals and country walks. Medway Box 456868 1

ONLY LOVE

Looking for a young at heart, non-smoking, cat loving male. I'm 44, enjoy travelling, reading and going out, looking for friendship, possibly a relationship. Folkestone Box 456019 1

STARTING OVER

Divorced 45yr old cuddly woman, brown eyes/hair, likes swimming, animals, cinema, soaps, the beach. WILTM a honest, non-smoking man for friendship, maybe more. Ashford Box 878141 1

COULD IT BE YOU?

Hi I'm 44, slim, 5ft8, a redhead, love nights out, socialising, looking for friendship initially and hopefully more later on. Box 889800 1

COME ON DOWN!

Honest, bubbly female 45, long hair, slim, enjoys walking, cinema, socialising; seeks honest, friendly chap for friendship leading to more. Box 882693 1

RELIGHT MY FIRE

Young professional widow, 46, own home, tall, attractive, green eyes/fair hair, enjoys all the good things in life. Looking for a fun-loving romantic guy. Box 876575 1

FROM THIS MOMENT

Young-looking 46yr old female, 5ft4, slim, n/s, affectionate, loyal and caring, looking for a male, 40-45, n/s, -5ft7, to share life with. Ashford. Box 454591 1

HEART AND SOUL

Easy-going single mum, 46, 5ft4, size 12/14, likes bowling, gardening, swimming, holidays, looking for friendship maybe more. Box 453832 1

MISS THIS MISS OUT

Young-looking, hard-working 53yr old living in East Sussex. I am a happy, caring person with a good sense of humour. Non-smoker. Heathfield. Box 883410 1

DO YOU HAVE THE BRAINS & THE LOOKS?

Professional, attractive female, 54, enjoys the countryside, gardening, keeping fit, reading and live music, looking to meet an attractive and intelligent man for a relationship. Box 448863 1

COMPANIONSHIP, LAUGHTER, HOPEFULLY MORE

Curvy & cuddly, outgoing, friendly, honest female, 53, 5ft7, larger build, fair hair, likes socialising, country walks, theatre, cinema, music, swimming, WILTM similar loving male. Box 443642 1

FANCY A FILM?

Hi, I'm Pam, 47, 5ft11, brown hair, hazel eyes, slimish, divorced, looking for a LTR with a nice and genuine man. No time-wasters please! Box 448626 1

SOUND GOOD?

Lynne 46, 5ft4, dark hair/eyes, loves reading/writing/socialising/astrology/car s...seeking honest, caring, outgoing guy to enjoy music, fun, friendship and more!...Russell (petrol head!) please call again, leave contacts! Box 449186 1

A HAPPY ENDING

Bubbly divorced mum, 47, blue eyes, blonde, 5ft9, enjoys the countryside and wildlife, intellectual conversation and novels, seeking intelligent male for soulmate. Ashford. Box 456456 1

TWO LOVELY LADIES UP FOR GRABS!

Two bubbly divorced ladies, 49 and 50, looking for two normal divorced guys, early 50s, for happy times and romance. East Sussex Box 456876 1

A WONDERFUL IDEA

Professional lady, 49, n/s, with manners and a heart, good-looking, hazel eyes, blonde hair, likes cinema, weekends away and walks, WILTM my soul mate! Maidstone Box 455662 1

BE MY FRIEND AND LOVER

Bubbly, caring lady 47, divorced with 2 teenagers, dark hair, medium build, out cooking, driving, love to talk, laugh and have fun, seeking a normal guy Box 425952 1

ARE YOU LOVING & CARING?

Young 48 year old, loving, caring, very bubbly, 5ft5, medium build, blonde, blue eyes, likes clubs, cinema, eating out, cosy nights, good company Box 434089 1

ALL THAT I NEED

Young-looking, slim, attractive female, 48, fun-loving, outgoing, N/S, GSOH, love music, holidays, enjoys out, staying in, seeks similar man, 42-50, Aylesford. Box 428833 1

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CARING & PROFESSIONAL

Female 49, 5ft4, long hair, slim build, likes eating out, the beach, travel, seeks a friendly chap, 48-55. Hastings Box 471700 1

JUST IMAGINE

Petite, brunette, bubbly, friendly, easy-going single mum, 49, enjoys cinema, eating out, socialising, most things, WILTM genuine male, to see where life takes us! Box 893562 1

HERE AND NOW

Outgoing lady, 50, enjoys walks along the beach, nights out and in with a quiet bottle of wine, seeks man to love forever. Box 449524 1

BRING ME TO LIFE

Lighthearted single female, 42, 5ft2, medium build, loves walking, socialising, swimming, holidays, looking for friendship maybe more. Box 453832 1

YOU DON'T KNOW UNTIL YOU CALL...

Young-looking, hard-working 53yr old living in East Sussex. I am a happy, caring person with a good sense of humour. Non-smoker. Heathfield. Box 883410 1

DO YOU HAVE THE BRAINS & THE LOOKS?

Professional, attractive female, 54, enjoys the countryside, gardening, keeping fit, reading and live music, looking to meet an attractive and intelligent man for a relationship. Box 448863 1

COMPANIONSHIP, LAUGHTER, HOPEFULLY MORE

Curvy & cuddly, outgoing, friendly, honest female, 53, 5ft7, larger build, fair hair, likes socialising, country walks, theatre, cinema, music, swimming, WILTM similar loving male. Box 443642 1

SMART MOVE

Spontaneous, friendly, lively female, 55, likes cinema, walking, cooking, socialising, seeks similar person for friendship leading to hopefully more. Box 430854 1

EXPLOSIVE PERSONALITY

Wicked sense of humour, old romantic, likes cycling, walking, live music, club/pubs. Sound good? I'm male, 35, seeking lady for friendship possibly more. Ramsgate. Box 905658 1

STICK WITH YOU

Attentive 38yr old male, looking for a special lady to slowly re-discover all the finer things in life with. Box 450599 1

HAPPY GO LUCKY

Sticky, 5ft7, 39, male, green-blue eyes, short hair, Virgo, GSOH, love swimming, walks on beaches, days out, seeking similar female, for loving times. Box 455764 1

AMP UP

39 year old male into rock, music, gigs, pubs clubs and everything, looking for a single lady, someone special. St Leonards-on-Sea. Box 456408 1

THE WIT TO WOO

Handsome male, 37, 6ft4, blond hair, blue eyes, looking to slowly rediscover the finer things in life. Herne Bay Box 424592 1

COME ON OVER TO MY PLACE

Fun-loving male, 40, 6ft, short dark hair, brown eyes, enjoys most things in life, seeks slim female size 10-12 who's reasonably good looking. Box 456899 1

LOOK NO FURTHER

Slim lady 63, 5ft2, likes cinema, eating out, loves tigers, looking for a man with gosh to share life with. Rochester Box 456583 1

TALL ORDER

Attractive blonde, 64 with a young out-look on life, slim build, likes animals, walking, meals, looking for a tall man for LTR. Hastings Box 456604 1

ONLY LOVE

Classy, intelligent, happy, slim, attractive, fit and active lady, 60, gosh, enjoys travel, gardening etc. Looking for that special friend to share life with. Box 88573 1

LOOK NO FURTHER

Slim lady 63, 5ft2, likes cinema, eating out, loves tigers, looking for a man with gosh to share life with. Rochester Box 456583 1

THE SWEETEST THING

Hello there, I'm Heather, 46, kind and caring, looking for a similar soulmate. Box 454133 1

HOPE YOU'RE OUT THERE?

Sincere female, 49, likes football, animals, country pursuits, seeks feminine woman for friendship, maybe more. Gillingham Box 456805 1

TABLE FOR 2?

Homely type woman, 50, looking for a similar female. I'm 5ft5, salt & pepper hair, I'm honest and trust worthy and looking for the same. Box 455737 1



MEN seeking women

SOMETHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY

28yr old guy, 6ft, dark hair, multi-coloured eyes, random sh, likes music, spending time with friends, sport, seeking a quirky girl to share life with. Tonbridge Box 456800 1

I'M HOPEFUL

Separated bloke, 35, from Kent, 6ft1, gosh, likes music, pubs and cinema, seeking a tactile, loving female for friendship, hopefully a relationship. Box 456841 1

DOWN-TO-EARTH

Attractive single dad, 36, 5ft7, medium build, gosh, likes swimming, eating out and socialising, seeking a like-minded woman for a fir. Box 453064 1

LET ME LOVE YOU

Happy-go-lucky male, 33, 6'2", GSOH, large build, blue eyes/brown hair, likes socialising, relaxing weekends, loves children, seeks caring, honest female for TLC and love. Box 384903 1

BACK ON THE MARKET

Honest, caring 37 year old that still thinks he's 20, likes cinema, pubs, clubs and socialising; looking for a girlie for fun, possibly more. Box 877958 1

EXPLOSIVE PERSONALITY

Wicked sense of humour, old romantic, likes cycling, walking, live music, club/pubs. Sound good? I'm male, 35, seeking lady for friendship possibly more. Ramsgate. Box 905658 1

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THE TIME TRAVELER'S WIFE (12A)



Rachel McAdams stars as the woman destined to meet and fall in love with a man (Eric Bana) who suffers from random fits of time-travelling in this adaptation Audrey Niffenegger bestselling book.

G.I. JOE: RISE OF THE COBRA (12A)



Based on the popular action figures, this action adventure from Stephen Sommers stars Channing Tatum, Marlon Wayans, Sienna Miller and former Doctor Who Christopher Eccleston.

THE TAKING OF PELHAM 123 (15)



John Travolta stars as a criminal mastermind who hijacks a New York subway train with Denzel Washington as the train dispatcher caught up in negotiations in this action-packed movie remake.

Tarantino makes history with glorious new film

■ BY ANDY WELCH

WHEN you're a fêted, cult film director like Quentin Tarantino, you can do just about anything you like – including playing fast and loose with history.

His much-hyped new movie *Inglourious Basterds*, set in Nazi-occupied France, does just that and the director/screenwriter admits he had no qualms about it.

"The way I write, there's different roads the characters could go down and when I was writing this movie, I came across some road-blocks, and one of those was history itself," he says, with a high-pitched giggle.

"I was more or less prepared to honour that until I came up against it and I go, 'No, I refuse!'. My characters don't know they're part of history – history hasn't been written yet. They don't know there's things they can't do, there's only action and reaction."

It's ballsy stuff from the man whose last effort, *Death Proof*, was widely agreed to be underwhelming, with Tarantino readily admitting that project became "derailed".

When we meet at a London hotel, he's nothing if not passionate, becoming more and more animated as he explains the most minute details of his latest movie.

He started writing the screenplay more than a decade ago, but knew it would require something of a superhuman effort to get his sprawling, intricate vision to the screen.

So the Tennessee native decided to work on other things instead, namely *Kill Bill* and the *Grindhouse* double-header with Robert Rodriguez.

When *Inglourious Basterds* was shown at the Cannes Festival earlier this year, he was



A DIRECT APPROACH: Film legend Quentin Tarantino

unsurprisingly proud to finally see his hard work on screen.

The story kicks off in Nazi-occupied France, where we're introduced to the suave, charismatic, yet ultimately evil German Colonel Hans Landa (Christoph Waltz), referred to as The Jew Hunter for obvious reasons.

Don't be surprised to see relative unknown Waltz troubling each and every award ceremony come the New Year. His performance is simply outstanding.

The *Basterds* of the title are a ragtag assortment of Jewish American soldiers – not counting infamous German deserter Hugo Stiglitz who defects to their cause – who have only have one thing on their mind: killing Nazis.

Lieutenant Aldo Raine, played brilliantly by Brad Pitt, leads the titular fighting unit, demanding nothing from his men other than inflicting terror and torture on the opposing forces. And 100 Nazi scalps from each of them.

Being a Tarantino film, several storylines cross over one another, culminating in an all-consuming finale.

VIEW THIS PREVIEW

yourkenttv.co.uk



Anyone who's seen one of Tarantino's earlier films will know he's a fan of liberal violence, and *Basterds* is no different. His other trademarks are also here, most notably of all, the soundtrack, which juxtaposes the action of World War II with the Ennio Morricone-composed score of the Spaghetti Western classics.

With all his characteristic elements in place, *Inglourious Basterds* is widely deemed a return to form for the director. The final line of the film has one character saying, "I think this could be my masterpiece". Surely Tarantino wouldn't be that literal?

"I didn't have that line until it came time to say it," he says. "That's just the line he says."

"As for my masterpiece, not to be coy, but it's not for me to say."

INGLOURIOUS BASTERDS

Certificate 18



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YOUR TV REVIEW

■ BY TOM BETTS

SHOOTING STARS BBC Two, 9pm, Wednesday

THERE was a time, about a decade ago, when everyone knew what you meant if you shouted "erano" or "ovavo" in a silly voice for no apparent reason.

You could even coo down a giant imaginary bird from the skies if you wanted and no one would bat an eyelid. But that was the 1990s and times have changed.

Funny thing is no one seems to have told Vic Reeves and Bob Mortimer that, and the pair have once again returned with Shooting Stars, the off-beat and madcap quiz show.

It gained a huge cult following when it first aired all those years ago.

Granted this is still reasonably funny, and passes half an hour of your midweek viewing rather nicely, but the formula doesn't feel quite as daring as it did back in the days when Loaded, new laddishness, Oasis and Chris Evans seemed to rule the earth.

Many of the key aspects of this show have again returned.

Vic's sleazy leg-rubbing over whichever female guest is the most attractive is back and so is Matt Lucas as George Dawes.

It's surprising he is again behind the drumkit considering the massive success he has enjoyed since first appearing as the giant manchild.

Essentially he is reprising a bit-part role, but the show wouldn't be the same without him.

They must be paying him well.

Ulrika Jonsson is a team captain once again, with eternal grump Jack Dee her opposite number.

He slots in well, in place of outgoing captain Will Self, and Johnny Vegas has also gone, which is good news as he tends to dominate any show he is



DRAB: Vic and Bob's Shooting Stars seems to have lost the spark that made it cult viewing

ever part of, whether on good comedy form or not.

It is the blonde former weathergirl who is often the butt of many jokes, though.

The catty remarks at her expense usually get the biggest laughs and it's hard not to wince at times.

I will probably watch this every so often until the end of the run, but it isn't quite so funny anymore and raises more of an occasional titter than an all-out belly-laugh.

On numerous occasions it has been brought back to the screen, but times have changed and this seems less and less mischievous with every passing year.

Vic and Bob, who I was a huge fan of through my teenage years and early 20s, still have a lot to offer – but perhaps it's time this show was put to bed once and for all.

YOUR WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

BY RUSSELL GRANT



AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19)
OVERDOING it at the gym could soon have you nursing an injury. Take it easy, especially if it's been a while since you've exerted yourself. Be ready to play second fiddle to a bossy expert. Although their attitude is annoying, you need to defer to their superior knowledge.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aquarius** 09067-531762



TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21)
SOMEONE could lose their temper with you big time and make you really miserable. Be ready to stand up to this bully. By drawing attention to their boorish behaviour, you'll take the sting out of their criticisms. A friend could receive an award or rise.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Taurus** 09067-531753



LEO (Jul 24-Aug 23)
YOU'LL have to keep your anger a secret for a while longer. You've worked so hard to get to this point you can't jeopardise your success with a temper tantrum. Luckily, your love life is emitting sparks. Spending lots of time with the object of your affection proves a welcome distraction.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Leo** 09067-531756



SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22)
SOMEONE could try to lord their experience over you. While they may be older and wiser it doesn't mean their ideas are bigger and better. Stick to your guns. A romantic relationship could reach an exciting new phase. It feels like you're walking on air.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Scorpio** 09067-531759



PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20)
SOMEONE close may be jealous of the love of your life. It's only natural that they want more of your time, but you need the companionship of someone special. Still, spending quality time alone with them is also important. Changing your look in some way will increase your allure.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Pisces** 09067-531763



GEMINI (May 22-Jun 22)
GOING against your principles might put more money in your pocket, but it will put a heavy burden on your conscience. Be prepared to walk away from a deal. Somebody less capable will jump at the opportunity. Try not to feel jealous. After all, you'll be able to sleep soundly.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Gemini** 09067-531754



VIRGO (Aug 24-Sep 23)
LENDING or borrowing money could get you into lots of trouble. Don't get mixed up in other people's financial affairs. If you're having fights with your partner about spending, it's time to have a serious talk. The two of you need to build a better budget and be more resourceful.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Virgo** 09067-531757



SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21)
YOU may not have the resources to help a friend. Don't feel guilty if you're can't put some cash their way. After all, you have other responsibilities. Besides, you're probably not making as much as everybody else. Your income bears no reflection on your worth as an individual.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Sagittarius** 09067-531760



ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20)
TRY not to push a man too hard or you could do permanent damage to your relationship. You're better off focusing attention on spiritual pursuits. It's been a long time since you worked on a home improvement project. If you don't have any DIY experience learn from an expert.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aries** 09067-531752



CANCER (Jun 23-Jul 23)
DON'T overanalyse angry feelings. It's only natural you're annoyed with someone who took advantage of you. The question is where are you going to channel these emotions? You could focus your energies on creative pursuits like music, gardening or painting.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Cancer** 09067-531755



LIBRA (Sep 24-Oct 23)
YOU'RE so polite and well mannered that others don't take you seriously. A show of aggression may be necessary to make an impression. If you have to threaten one of the more boisterous members of the group, so be it. A medical test gives you hope for the future.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Libra** 09067-531758



CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20)
A FRIEND or business partner may be threatened by your professional progress. While it's true you've achieved a lot of success, that doesn't diminish them in your life. Take this opportunity to show appreciation for their support and encouragement.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Capricorn** 09067-531761

Calls cost 75p per minute. Service provided by g8wave London N7



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ABTA Y0291

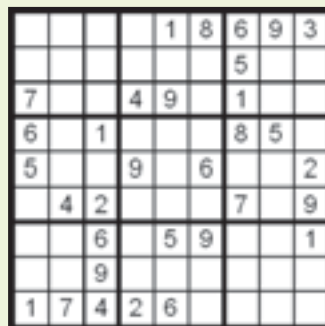
CROSSWORD & SUDOKU

No103

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Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9

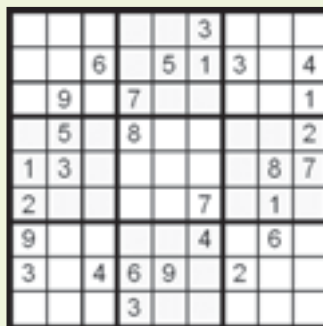
EASY



MEDIUM



HARD



CRYPTIC CLUES

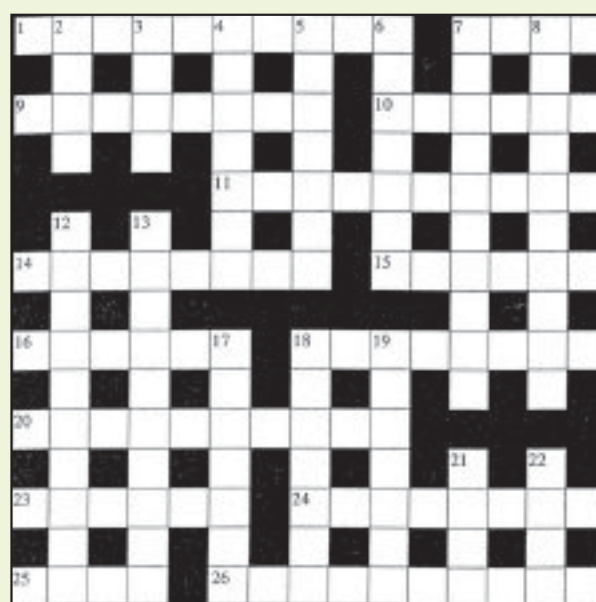
ACROSS

- 1 Painter's apartment? (6,4)
 7 Source of energy used to stimulate (4)
 9 Final parts have sharp point in spiral dive (8)
 10 Everyone expressing reluctance about single onion genus (6)
 11 Thematic? (10)
 14 Sweet moisture early in the morning on melon (8)
 15 Anticipate a happy event? (6)
 16 Stretched out into a long line. Highly? (6)
 18 Cigar that cannot be improved on round at the end (8)
 20 Table not used every day? (10)
 23 Mischievous child lurching inside (6)
 24 Contentment of grand young fellow by headland (8)
 25 Go into the red – that's virtuous! (4)
 26 Is it drudgery for stupid person to have a job? (10)

DOWN

- 2 Sycophant detailed frog-like creature (4)
 3 Fool told otherwise (4)
 4 Against work on piano playing odes (7)
 5 Archer's lengthy salute? (7)
 6 Swingers' bar (7)
 7 Writer touched feather, very end inside (4-3,3)
 8 Quibble about a cove, quite unusual (10)
 12 Locate Norm coming from resort in Monaco (5,5)
 13 Left behind by Will perhaps (10)
 17 Guide leader cooking dinner gave broad smile (7)
 18 Drink rosé perhaps, gallon at home (4,3)
 19 Free to let once more (7)
 21 Precipitation from north during broadcast (4)
 22 Tight sarong more than covered ruler (4)

SCRIBBLE HERE



QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

- 1 Horn of plenty (10)
 7 Italian wine (4)
 9 Dark grey (8)
 10 Linked (anag.) (6)
 11 Definitely safe (4,3,3)
 14 More whimsical (8)
 15 Relegate (6)
 16 Missile (6)
 18 Cranium (8)
 20 Breezy liveliness (10)
 23 Disclaim (6)
 24 South American primate (8)
 25 Personality (4)
 26 Produce anew (10)

DOWN

- 2 Starting-point in darts (4)
 3 Police informer (4)
 4 Needlework (7)
 5 Synthetic compound (7)
 6 Ungainly (7)
 7 AD (4,6)
 8 Forbearance (10)
 12 Gradually building up (10)
 13 Exterminating (7,3)
 17 Slimmer (7)
 18 Tankard (4-3)
 19 Unplaced runner (4-3)
 21 Energetic person (4)
 22 Zing (4)

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LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

SUDOKU SOLUTIONS No102

EASY



MEDIUM



HARD



CRYPTIC SOLUTION No102

ACROSS: 1 Driving home 9 Icicle 10 Delouse 12 Rat-trap 14 Annabel 15 Mollycoddle 16 Cow 17 Sol 19 Do one's worst 22 However 23 Kiloton 24 Overlap 25 Thorax 26 Dehydrating. DOWN: 2 Recital 3 Viceroy 4 Nee 5 Hide-and-seek 6 Melange 7 Quebec 8 Yellowstone 11 Drama school 13 Photography 18 Lawyer 19 Devalue 20 Walkout 21 Retrain 25 Tar.

QUICK SOLUTION No103

Also-ran 21 Goer 22 Zest. 13 Killing off 17 Thinner 18 Beer-mug 19 7 Anno Domini 8 Toleration 12 Cumulative 3 Mark 4 Crochet 5 Polymer 6 Awkward Self 26 Regenerate. DOWN: 2 Oche Jauntiness 23 Disown 24 Marmoset 25 15 Denote 16 Bullet 18 Brainbox 20 10 Kindle 11 Home and dry 14 Quarter. ACROSS: 1 Cornucopia 7 Asti 9 Charcoal

Answers to all of this week's quizzes can be found on our website

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Enjoy wading through paradise

■ BY MELANIE SMITH

AS CLEAR waves lapped over my bare feet, I couldn't help comparing the luscious white sands, whispering palms and gentle sea breezes with the drizzly England I left earlier that morning.

After a short drive from the airport, I was relaxing in the sun of Mexico's Riviera Maya at Thomson's five-star Sensatori Resort, nestled on beautiful Bahia Petempich Beach halfway between Cancun and Playa Del Carmen.

Unpacked and refreshed, I eagerly headed to the hotel's Mojito lounge, and found myself stuck for choice with an extensive menu of 31 different mouth-watering flavours.

The Sensatori concept is part of the big operators' answer to travellers who put together their own holidays online. The facilities are superb, but you only get in with a package bought from an operator.

It's certainly been carefully planned: the resort's 438 suites include air-conditioning, 32-inch plasma TVs, DVD players, hydro-jet Jacuzzis, iPod docking stations and marble bathrooms with showers.

There are 12 categories of room, including swim-up suites (allowing you to enter the pool straight from your room), honeymoon balconies with views overlooking the sea, and presidential suites.

Every age group is catered for, with lazing beds for couples, an adults-only pool with butler service, a kids' area with day care, and even a teen hangout – a club with gaming stations, internet cafe, air hockey and a disco. A kids' programme for under-fives offers all-day care and toy-lending. The resort also has a kids' clubroom with several activity areas.



HEAVENLY: The perfect blue sea gently laps against stunning white sands at the Sensatori Resort in Mexico

Eager to experience the area, we headed to the Chikin-Ha zip line, just half-an-hour south of nearby Playa del Carmen.

Our guide Riaz, half Mayan, half American, was a fountain of knowledge with great stories about the area. Soon we were walking through the jungle towards the natural waters of the Cenotes (system of underground rivers).

Our adventure headed upwards to the jungle zip lines. Heights normally terrify me, but the beautiful scenery took over as I leapt off and sped down the line.

That evening, we visited the resort's adult-only restaurant, Le Chique, for a 14-course meal. It might sound a lot, but the gourmet dinner, accompanied by five specially-chosen wines, was served in spoonful portions – just enough to get the tastebuds going.

From a creamy truffle croquette and silver

quail to a chocolate plate and fruity dessert, every mouthful was an experience.

Next day, we flew in a six-seater plane over the jungle to see the Mayan ruins of Chichen Itza. At around £245, it might sound extravagant, but it's worth the extra pennies.

We reached the site at about 11am, ahead of the crowds. The stone pyramids are fascinating, and our guide explained the various buildings and ancient Mayan traditions.

On our last day, we caught the minibus and drove half-an-hour north to Cancun to enjoy the Jungle Tour.

After four days in this paradise, it was difficult to tear ourselves away. If you want to experience the historical sights and natural beauty of the Yucatan Peninsula, with the added bonus of pampering and luxury, the Sensatori is definitely for you.

FACT FILE: MEXICO

Time difference	-6 to -8 hours (GMT)
Capital	Mexico City
Language	Spanish
Population	About 100 million
Currency	£1 = approx 21 pesos
Religion	Roman Catholic
Climate	Temperate/tropical

Travel details

Melanie Smith was a guest of Thomson Holidays, which offers seven nights 24-hour gourmet all-inclusive at the 5* Sensatori Resort in Mexico from £800 (two adults sharing), including return flights ex-Gatwick and transfers.

Regional deps include Glasgow from £974 and Manchester from £884.

Reservations: 0871 235 3235 or see the website www.thomson.co.uk.

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PROPERTY NEWS

Online advertising is boost to web shares

SHARES in property website Rightmove have been performing well and analysts say they expect the trend to continue.

Rightmove shares closed up 80.1 at 508p, a rise of 18.7 per cent, according to the company's half-yearly returns.

Latest figures show that pre-tax profits fell eight per cent to £18.2m, but the company is using the recession to increase market share, with sellers favouring online advertising over more traditional areas to cut costs.

The website registered 3.2 billion page impressions in the first half of the year, up three per cent on a year ago, and next month launches a £1m TV campaign.

The company said it was on course to come close to its 2008 underlying operating profit of £41m, and added it considered property prices to have "bottomed out" and that it would look to increase its prices early in 2010.

Miles Shipside, commercial director, said: "New instructions are down, and that shortage of supply has underpinned prices. Agents have cut their costs, and the downturn has meant they are reassessing where they get their value."

Ed Williams, managing director, said: he anticipated growth over the second half of the year to exceed market expectations, and hoped to achieve further growth in 2010.

63 per cent rise shown in property building

NEW house building in England has surged in recent months, with figures from the Department for Communities and Local Government showing a 63 per cent quarterly rise in new projects.

During the three months to the end of June work began on 29,980 homes, down nine per cent short when compared to the same period in 2008.

The second quarter of 2009 also saw housing completions increase 24 per cent to an estimated 39,320, compared to the March quarter, up seven per cent from last year.

Private enterprise housing starts leapt 73 per cent in the June quarter, 12 per cent lower than 2008 and completions rose 27 per cent, one per cent up on the same period last year.

On an annual basis housing starts for England continued to decline, totalling 87,190 in the 12 months to the end June, down 41 per cent year-on-year and falling 53 per cent behind the 2005/2006 peak, with 136,140 completions down 16 per cent on the previous twelve months.



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'Farmyard' homes reflect county's rural heritage

■ BY NICK AMES

HILLREED Homes is aiming for a farmyard-style environment in an exclusive community at Kings Hill, West Malling.

Partner Colin Creed has designed the new homes to appeal to astute buyers looking for something totally different.

"We are very excited about this unusual project", says Jo Richards, marketing and corporate manager at Hillreed Homes.

"One of the homes is a replica of the beautiful oast-houses which dot the villages around here, another is a bungalow called The Old Dairy, a rare find in these days when new-build bungalows have been restricted through government directives. In all there are just eleven new homes."

Hillreed Homes is currently marketing

apartments from their site sales office at Greenway, Amber Lane, Kings Hill, and it is here that you can study the plans, layouts and specifications of the new homes at The Farmyard.

Mr Creed said: "It was an exciting challenge and one that I have enjoyed enormously. Over the years I have designed many of the homes we offer in our comprehensive portfolio of house designs but this one has really captured my imagination, particularly as it reflects the local vernacular and ensures that the spirit of Kent is not lost."

The Farmyard is located off the Main Square at Kings Hill, leading off Amber Lane and the properties are all within a gated community.



RURAL PROPERTIES: Clockwise from top left, Farmworkers' Cottage, The Oast-house, The Barns and The Old Dairy

Firm celebrates success of first year

PHILIP Jarvis Estate Agents is celebrating a first year of trading and says despite the gloom over the market it has made an extremely successful start.

It opened to a backdrop of recession, falling house prices and other estate agents closing all over the county, and the couple behind the company said many people questioned their sanity in opening last September.

But both Philip and Faye Jarvis, owners of the firm, never doubted their ability in making their business work and say they have enjoyed a successful first year.

Mr Jarvis said: "From the moment we opened we have bucked the trend. We sold our first property within the first few weeks and have never looked back."

"We have put the success down to a combination of strong marketing, the prominent location in The Square, in Lenham, hard work and a positive attitude."

Mr Jarvis added that despite the economic downturn the company has never given up on the property market and believes this has rubbed off on both sellers and buyers alike.

He said: "I also feel that both myself and

Faye have capitalised on what we feel is an excellent area to sell properties.

"I believe that Lenham and the surrounding area has remained a popular place to live. The fast-speed train from Ashford to London, taking only 37 minutes, further adds to the attraction of the area, which is helping the local property market."

"Furthermore, with interest rates at an all-time low, arguably there has not been a better time to move, especially up the property market with the differential in house prices not having been so small for such a long time."

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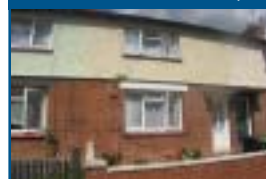
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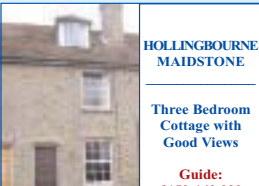





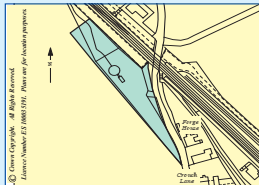






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Oxford Road, Maidstone £159,995

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Maidstone OIEO £105,000

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Maidstone £150,000

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Barming £225,000

A two bedroom semi detached bungalow with a 27' lounge/dining room, double glazing and oil fired central heating. The bungalow has been re-decorated.

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Boughton Monchelsea £249,950

A modern detached three bedroom home with various upgrades to original specification including an enhanced kitchen with granite work surfaces, alarm system and floor coverings.

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Maidstone OIEO £275,000

Three bedroom detached house, 18' kitchen/diner, utility room, two reception rooms, cloakroom, en-suite shower room to master bedroom, central heating, double glazing, no chain.

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£140,000

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£225,000

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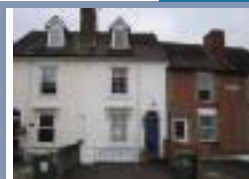
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MOTORS NEWS



Skoda no longer a joke

REMEMBER those old Skoda jokes? Winners like 'What do you call a Skoda with a sunroof? A skip'.

Well, they're high fiving and having the last laugh at the VW-owned Czech brand after adding model No5 to the line-up – the Yeti, due in showrooms on September 17, priced from £13,750 with air con as standard.

With 4x4 looks but a more affordable and economical front-wheel drive option too, it should suit buyers attracted to off-roader styling and Skoda's high customer satisfaction and reliability ratings.



Rav has extra drive

TOYOTA'S RAV4 continues to move upmarket, but a midlife facelift for the current model has given something back to fans.

Priced from £18,995, it has gained Toyota's Optimal Drive technology, which delivers more power with lower emissions and consumption.

A front-wheel drive only economy option has also been revived, having been offered on the previous generation RAV, but axed after poor sales.

If prices are too rich, there is Toyota's more affordable junior Tonka toy, the Urban Cruiser (from £14,500), also with two or four-wheel drive.



...and Saab's new 9-5

FINALLY Saab has a new model on the market.

The embattled executive brand, now merged with supercar maker and fellow Swedes at Koenigsegg, has shown a new 9-5 flagship.

According to blurb, it "embodies a new era for Saab", though it is actually a Vauxhall Insignia underneath.

And there is the rub for a once distinctive brand: it will take time – possibly too much – for Saab to recreate its individualism after an era as just another General Motors brand. Good luck anyway.



GRAND DESIGN: The stylish Grande Punto Sporting looks set to be another winner for Italian giant Fiat, following hot on the heels of its hugely successful 500 supermini

More than a 'sporting' chance to impress you

ROAD TEST

FIAT GRANDE PUNTO SPORTING

BY STEVE LOADER

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Green rating	★★★★★

Giugiaro, who also created the Uno, Panda, the original VW Golf and the Alfasud amongst many others, including supercars.

A 'Giugiaro' badge on the Punto's flank rightly gives credit for a design that echoes sports cars at the front, delivers a stylish upward window line to the side – without condemning those in the back to claustrophobia – a spacious cabin and a neat yet practical rear end, with the lights raised above minor shunts.

It wears bold colours beautifully; the banana yellow test car turned heads for the right reason and was a racy 1.4 16v T-Jet 120PS (138bhp) Sporting three-door, looking good value at £12,755 with the standard Punto five-year warranty, even before discounts.

This version also delivers big bangs for modest bucks and the car's small capacity 1.4-litre turbocharged hits 60mph in under nine seconds, with good economy and emissions and there is also a 155PS Abarth version. Rather than diesels with their relatively large weight, this has to be the way forward for superminis.

The Sporting also handles beautifully – in this guise it is a both a practical and rapid supermini – though the ride quality and refinement can be wearing at times.



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07 56 Ford Mondeo 2.0 TDCi 115 LX 5dr Euro 4

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Price comparisons based on a 2004 Peugeot 206 1.4 petrol model, competitors prices taken from their web sites, comparison prices correct on 23/07/09, prices do not take into account any local special offers.

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USED CAR ROUND-UP: OUR PICK FROM A KEY SECTOR

SMALL/SUPERMINI/MPVs

SO SUCCESSFUL has been the MPV (multi-purpose vehicle) or 'people carrier' concept that its influence has carried over to other car sectors. None more so than superminis, where designs are tending to be taller and more flexible, with 'smart' seating arrangements, extra headroom and load-lugging ability. None of the trio here would win styling prizes, but such versatility comes as standard and they are probably the closest to being the market's 'jacks of all trades'. After several years on the market, affordable examples should be easy to find too.

HONDA JAZZ



HONDA'S Jazz definitely hit the right note and won a host of awards. Beware early examples, which were too firmly sprung for some tastes, but later (Mark 1) models are good to drive and better to ride in while retaining the car's versatile rear seating. The range lacks a diesel, but offers a continuously variable automatic gearbox (CVT) option with pre-selected positions that are reassuring to use, while bringing all the benefits of a CVT auto's better fuel consumption.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

NISSAN NOTE



NISSAN threw the rule book away with the Note to create a partial replacement for its long-running yet unloved Almera family hatchback, while also acquiring a small MPV with a more compact stance. The result is a versatile, roomy and manageable small car with lots of clever features including a reversible boot floor that covers a spacious lower compartment. The Note's engines are also good news, with a Renault-supplied 1.5-litre turbodiesel the most desirable for mixing power with economy.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

VAUXHALL MERIVA



NOT as influential as Vauxhall's bigger Zafira perhaps, but the Meriva is a popular used buy with families seeking a manageable yet capacious family holdall. It drives and handles well and offers a higher driving position than equivalent family hatches and estates, without being ridiculously lofty. It also has Vauxhall's versatile 'Flex' system interior features, reliability and a good range of engines including diesels and, best of all, used prices have eased dramatically with greater supply.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

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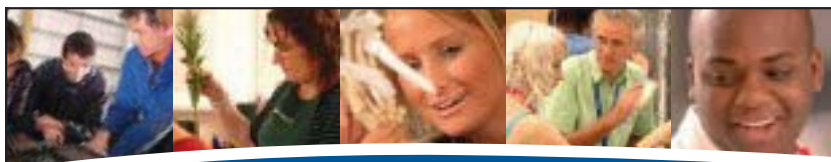
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Supply Lecturers Public Services Various hours available, salary range £19,344 – £26,759 pro rata per annum	S/PS
Supply Lecturer Higher Education Health & Social Care (HND and BA courses) Various hours available, salary range £19,344 – £26,759 pro rata per annum <i>You will have a minimum of a good first degree in a relevant subject area and demonstrate a willingness to contribute to the development of the HE programmes. For theory and related practice you should be able to offer ongoing support and guidance with project work and student dissertations to degree level.</i>	SI/HE/HSC
Supply Lecturers Higher Education Animal Science (HND & BSc courses) Various hours available, salary range £19,344 – £26,759 pro rata per annum <i>You will have a minimum of a good first degree in a relevant subject area and demonstrate a willingness to contribute to the development of the HE programmes. Specialist knowledge of Animal Psychology, Microbiology, Anatomy and Histology is required. For theory and related practice you should be able to offer ongoing support and guidance with project work and student dissertations to degree level.</i>	SI/HE/AS
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The closing date for the above posts is Friday 11th September 2009 at 12 noon

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MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint an outstanding individual in the following area:

ICT Technical I.L.T Support Engineer Ref: P0653

Salary: £18,433 - £23,640 per annum

We are looking to recruit an organized and hard working individual to support the ICT department in developing the College's Virtual Learning Environment (Moodle). The successful candidate should have knowledge within this field and have an understanding of VLE's. The ability to work with a range of software packages including PHP in a Microsoft Windows environment, as well as being able to communicate at various technical levels is essential.

Closing date: Friday 18 September 2009

MidKent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk for information, advice and guidance.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number

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The closing date for the above posts is Friday 11th Sept 2009 at 12 noon.

For an information pack please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office quoting the above reference.

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Salary: £25,895 - £29,622 per annum

We are looking to recruit an enthusiastic and dynamic individual to teach on a range of Motor Vehicle courses. The successful candidate will have proven knowledge and experience within the Motor Vehicle Engineering Industry. MidKent College's highly successful Motor Vehicle department is looking for an interactive team member with strong communication skills. The ideal candidate will hold a HNC or degree in a related field and either possess or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification. We are particularly interested in an individual that has the passion to motivate our learners within their chosen subject.

For an informal discussion about this role please call Simon Foot, Head of School on 01622 625864.

Closing date: Friday 26 September 2009

MidKent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk for information, advice and guidance.

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This special project Gateway to 'Suscon' has been funded by the ESF (European Social Fund), SEEDA and North West Kent College. The project aims to provide skills for at least 1,250 people for sustainable jobs that respond to the needs of climate change within the construction industry. Initially the project aims to identify skill needs, deliver current programmes, place people in sustainable employment and build a skilled workforce for the future. The project will involve the development of training products, employment support, business support and skills development, all in conjunction with local companies.

All posts are based at The Bridge, Dartford

■ BUSINESS MANAGER

Package: up to £53,000

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■ EMPLOYABILITY MANAGER

Package: up to £44,000

This person with a construction background will maintain and build partner, stakeholder and client relationships in support of employment within sustainable construction, development and delivery of employment initiatives ensuring a high quality delivery. Previous multi-agency working is essential along with experience of initiating and implementing similar projects.

■ TRAINING MANAGER

Package: up to £44,000

This person will maximise training opportunities by developing and co-ordinating training programmes to meet sustainable construction criteria. Working closely with employers to design and deliver programmes ensuring that the products and services are accredited.

All posts are offered on a fixed term 18 months

Interviews are expected to take place on 23/24/25 September

The college is committed to promoting equal opportunities and actively encourages applications from disabled persons and ethnic minorities



See our website for further details of the above posts - www.nwkclege.ac.uk Online applications only to: HR@nwkclege.ac.uk.
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CRICKET

BY TOM HOWARD

Kent League Division Four

Addington Village 1st XI v
Gravesend RF 1st XI

ADDINGTON Village extended their lead at the top of Division Four with their 14th win from 17 games this season.

Addington have dominated Division Four this season and are edging towards finishing the entire campaign unbeaten.

The home side won the toss and elected to bat first. Village were in a bit of trouble at the start of the innings after losing their opener Mark Rimmer for a duck. The runs were hard to come by with Ben Buet (27), Will Jeffery (12), Neil Scott (6) and Duncan Brown (13) all struggling with the bat.

Mat Bruton and Jack Sopp put the innings back on track, but Addington slumped to 184 all out.

However, Addington secured yet another win with a fine display from bowlers Dan Walton and Joseph Whitecross. The pair gave Gravesend's batsmen a hard time as they took nine wickets between them. Walton breezed through the top order with only Sandeep Singh (27) providing resistance.

Bruton stopped the flow of runs by taking the wicket of Giagan Deep Singh five runs short of his half-century. The wicket proved to be the turning point of the game, as Whitcross ripped through the tail, which left Gravesend all out for 141 in the 38th over.

Villagers set to go whole league season unbeaten



UNBEATEN: Addington celebrate taking another wicket as they maintained their unbeaten record with victory against Gravesend on Saturday

SCOREBOARD

Addington Village

	Runs			
Mark Rimmer	ct Dee	b Wilde		0
Ben Buet	b Singh	Rana		27
Will Jeffery	ct Skye	b Wilde		12
Neil Scott	ct Skye	b Wilde		6
Duncan Brown	st b Singh	Rana		13
Mat Bruton	b Singh			37
Jack Sopp	not out			36
James Fullagar	b Wilde			15
Dan Walton	not out			2
Joseph Whitecross	did not bat			
Keith Stone	did not bat			
Extras	(19b 8lb 5w 4nb)			36
Total	(7 wickets, 50 overs)			184

Bowlers		O	M	R	W
Nigel Dee		8	1	19	0
Russ Wilde		15	4	41	4
Meguel Dee		10	2	34	0
Sukhpal Singh Rana		10	2	31	2
Sukhvir Singh		4	0	19	0
Sandeep Singh		3	0	13	1

Gravesend

	Runs			
Sandeep Singh	ct Bruton	b Walton		28
S Saeed	ct Rimmer	b Walton		0
Richard Skye	ct Brown	b Walton		6
Nigel Dee	b Walton			7
Meguel Dee	ct Walton	b Whitecross		33
Sukhpal Singh Rana	ct Bruton	b Walton		3
Giagan Deep Singh	ct Fullagar	b Bruton		45
Chris McDermott	ct Buet	b Whitecross		0
Sukhvir Singh	ct Buet	b Whitecross		6
Russ Wilde	b Whitecross			0
Steve Whagorn	not out			0
Extras	(2b 3lb 5w 3nb)			13
Total	(all out, 37.2 overs)			141

Bowlers		O	M	R	W
Keith Stone		7	2	16	0
Dan Walton		13	3	36	5
Neil Scott		5	1	18	0
Joseph Whitecross		7	1	41	4
Duncan Brown		4	0	17	0
Mat Bruton		12	0	8	1

LOCAL CRICKET ROUND-UP

INVICTA LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

Headcorn 1st XI v Mersham Sports 1st XI

JAMES Baker's half-century was unable to prevent Headcorn from a 68-run defeat at the hands of Mersham Sports.

Mersham put themselves in a strong position to challenge for the win after reaching 187 for 5 from 45 overs. Darren Pugh top scored with 80.

Headcorn's reply started slowly and it was Baker who rescued the innings with a knock of 56. However, the tail were dismissed cheaply which left Headcorn all out with six overs remaining.

Mersham Sports

	Runs			
Darren Pugh	ct Barker	b Tyler		80
Kyle McAlister	ct Phipps	b Mansell		23
Alan Stevens	ct Donnelly	b Daking		0
David Harman	ct Levett	b Tyler		50
Matthew Fagg	not out			15
James Fearnley	c & b Tyler			12
Chris Meanley	not out			0
John Southern	did not bat			
Kevin Burton	did not bat			
John Harman	did not bat			
Kevin Wise	did not bat			
Extras				7
Total	(5 wickets, 45 overs)			187

Bowlers		O	M	R	W
Adam Tyler		12	1	53	3
Mike Donnelly		11	1	59	0
Rob Mansell		12	2	40	1
Nicholas Daking		6	2	20	1
Barry Curtis		4	2	11	0

Headcorn

	Runs			
Simon Phipps	b Pugh			5
Peter Westrop	ct Burton	b Pugh		0
Kevin Richardson	lbw b Pugh			15
James Barker	st Southern	b Burton		56
Robert Sparks	ct Harman	b Burton		22
Mike Donnelly	ct McAlister	b Burton		9
Adam Tyler	ct Fagg	b Burton		0
Nicholas Daking	not out			6
Rob Mansell	run out Southern			0
Neil Levett	ct Pugh	b Burton		0
Barry Curtis	ct Wise	b Stevens		0
Extras				6
Total	(all out, 39 overs)			119

Bowlers		O	M	R	W
Darren Pugh		7	3	17	3
Kevin Wise		3	0	14	0
Kyle McAlister		7	1	27	0
John Harman		9	3	24	0
Kevin Burton		9	3	19	5
Alan Stevens		4	0	15	1

KENT LEAGUE DIVISION FIVE

Old Brockleians 1st XI v Offham 1st XI

HALF-centuries from Tom and Ben Gittings helped steer Offham to a comfortable 104-run win at Old Brockleians.

Tom and Ben Gittings hit the majority of Offham's runs, as the visitors finished their 50 overs with a score of 187 for 8.

Old Brockleians were unable to deal with Offham's bowling attack and only three batsmen managed to post a score in double figures. The home side's tail collapsed which left them all out for a disappointing 83.

Offham

	Runs			
Leonard Watt	b Carr			8
Tom Gittings	ct Dummer	b Cripps		67
Ben Gittings	ct Carr	b Barnes		65
Adam Kent	lbw b Barnes			0
Lawrence Bell	ct Alberts	b Gardiner		1
Andrew Prescott	b Barnes			1
Andy Cox	ct Alberts	b Holder		21
Nathan Brooker	lbw b Cripps			0
Phil Blakeburn	not out			4
Mark Collier	not out			4
Simon Hallbrook	did not bat			
Extras				16
Total	(8 wickets, 50 overs)			187

Bowlers		O	M	R	W
Eddie Holder		8	0	37	1
Devon Carr		10	1	39	1
Andy Cripps		7	0	40	2
Sam Gardiner		12	3	34	1
Ollie Barnes		13	0	29	3

Old Brockleians

	Runs			
Stuart Semple	ct B Gittings	b Watt		3
Eddie Holder	ct T Gittings	b Hallbrook		15
Greg Mclean	lbw b Blakeburn			27
Ollie Barnes	run out B Gittings			1
Braam Alberts	ct Prescott	b Hallbrook		6
Julien Crawford	ct T Gittings	b Watt		0
Danny Hazelton	b Watt			0
Sam Gardiner	not out			20
Ainsley Dummer	ct T Gittings	b Cox		4
Andy Cripps	b Blakeburn			0
Devon Carr	run out B Gittings			0
Extras				7
Total	(all out, 24.4 overs)			83

Bowlers		O	M	R	W
Leonard Watt		10	2	18	3
Simon Hallbrook		9	2	35	2
Phil Blakeburn		3	2	3	2
Andy Cox		2.4	0	23	1

KENT FEEDER LEAGUE EAST 1A

Yalding 1st XI v Westgate-on-Sea

CHRIS Flint and Jason Mickle stared in a three-wicket win for Westgate-on-Sea which left Yalding rooted to the bottom of the league.

Flint and Mickle were destructive with the ball taking nine wickets to help dismiss Yalding for 124. Scott Walker top scored for Yalding with 49.

Walker was impressive with the ball and gave Yalding a glimmer of hope by taking five wickets. However, Westgate held firm and managed to clinch the win after only 34 overs.

Yalding

	Runs			
James Fenn	b Flint			8
Andrew Robinson	ct Sandwell	b Mickle		4
Scott Walker	st Sandwell	b Mickle		49
Zeeshan Fazal	ct Winch	b Mickle		4
Alistair Ratcliff	b Mickle			0
Manish Jain	b Flint			7
Dushyanth Gnanappiragasam	not out			37
Joel Shopland	b Flint			2
Rory High	b Flint			0
Andrew Swaine	b Flint			1
Extras	(2b 4lb 5w 1nb)			12
Total	(all out, 37.1 overs)			124

Bowlers		O	M	R	W
Chris Flint		10.1	3	28	5
Jason Mickle		10	1	33	4
Ross Heathcote		8	0	30	0
Brian Andrews		8	1	27	0

Westgate-on-Sea

	Runs			
Lewis Winch	ct High	b Gnanappiragasam		6
Chris Flint	ct Robinson	b Walker		43
Nick Sandwell	lbw b Walker			17
Alan Winch	ct Gnanappiragasam	b Walker		0
Alexander Arnold	b Walker			5
Jean-Pierre Schroeder	lbw b Walker			8
Steve Wood	b Robinson			12
Chris Flint	not out			9
Brian Andrews	not out			16
Ross Heathcote	did not bat			
Jason Mickle	did not bat			
Extras	(2b 1lb 9w)			12
Total	(7 wickets, 34 overs)			128

Bowlers		O	M	R	W
Dushyanth Gnanappiragasam		9	2	21	1
James Fenn		6	0	29	0
Scott Walker		11	4	39	5
Andrew Robinson		8	0	36	1

KENT LEAGUE DIVISION THREE 2ND XI

OD CUACO 2nd XI v Addington Village 2nd XI

ROSS McDermott's five-wicket haul was the highlight in a comfortable seven wicket win for Addington 2s.

The hosts batted first and could only manage to put 99 on the board as they struggled against Addington's bowlers. McDermott finished with the games best figures of 5 for 8.

With a low target to surpass, Addington made a poor start losing their first three batsmen for just 14 runs.

However, Neil Miller (49) and Craig Roxburgh (26) steered Addington to victory.

OD CUACO

	Runs			
Andy Parker	lbw b Nash			17
Joseph Rispoli	b Nash			6
Dhirukshan Wijayaratanm	ct Down	b Roxburgh		17
Colin Cook	ct Friend	b Roxburgh		0
Nick Gobel	b Harris			10
Rowan Clapp	ct Crowley	b McDermott		16
Siva Sivarajan	ct Friend	b McDermott		9
Brendon Jessop	lbw b McDermott			0
Cameron Sanders	not out			2
Simon Hunter	b McDermott			0
Russell Newell	ct Harris	b McDermott		7
Extras	(8b 2lb 5w)			15
Total	(all out, 25.5 overs)			99

Bowlers		O	M	R	W
Craig Roxburgh		7	0	29	2
Peter Nash		10	2	35	2
Sam Harris		6	0	17	1
Ross McDermott		2.5	0	8	5

Addington Village

	Runs			
Mike Clarke	ct Newell	b Clapp		5
Ross McDermott	b Sivarajan			3
Robert Chambers	lbw b Hunter			6
Neil Miller	not out			49
Craig Roxburgh	not out			26
Adam Crowley	did not bat			
Tom Down	did not bat			
Phil Roxburgh	did not bat			
Sam Harris	did not bat			
Martin Friend	did not bat			
Peter Nash	did not bat			
Extras	(6lb 5w 1nb)			12
Total	(3 wickets, 22.2 overs)			101

Bowlers		O	M	R	W
Rowan Clapp		7	2	21	1
Siva Sivarajan		9.2	1	48	1
Simon Hunter		5	0	21	1
Colin Cook		1	0	5	0

Davis is rallying together for next season



FUTURE: Stefan Davis hopes to fare better in 2010

STEFAN Davis is already looking to next season as accidents, coupled with a lack of funding, ended his Ford Fiesta Sporting trophy title hopes.

The Aylesford-based rally driver has had a tough season racing in the Ford Fiesta class of the British Rally Championship, with a number of mechanical difficulties forcing Davis into retirements. After wrecking his car in an accident at the Isle of Man International rally in July and a lack of funds, Davis has written off the 2009 season with a round of the series remaining.

He started the season well by almost winning the opening round in March, but after this latest accident he believes it is time to look towards 2010.

He said: "It has been a tough year. We start-

RALLYING

ed off fairly strong, but after the accident in the Isle of Man where we rolled the car, that ended my chances of winning the championship. There are still more events to go, but funds are tight and if I can't win the championship I feel I should start looking towards next year."

Davis revealed he is hoping to return to the British Rally Championship next season in the four wheeled drive class.

He said: "I am desperate to get back racing in the four wheeled drive category. Hopefully I can sort something out to get back there. There are a lot of things happening in the sport and hopefully it will pick up. Rallying is where I want to stay."

FOOTBALL



Picture: Steve Terrell

BIG STAGE: Former Stone Chris Smalling (no. 4)

Smalling in European campaign call-up

FORMER Maidstone United defender Chris Smalling has been called up to the England under-21 squad for the European Championship qualifying campaign.

The 19-year-old, who joined Premier League side Fulham from the Stones last summer, made his England under-21 debut earlier this month, playing half an hour in a friendly 0-0 draw against Holland.

Smalling, a former Chatham Grammar schoolboy, has impressed England under-21 boss Stuart Pearce enough to earn a recall for England's trip to face Macedonia on Friday and Greece next Tuesday.

The central defender has rapidly risen through the ranks in his first season in professional football at Fulham. After captaining Fulham reserves, Smalling made his first-team debut on the final day of last season against Everton.

Smalling's former club, Maidstone United, received a donation of appreciation from Fulham last month.

If selected for Friday's under-21 game against Macedonia, Smalling could line up alongside Manchester City defender Micah Richards.

Stones hit highs and lows over weekend

FOOTBALL

BY TOM HOWARD

Canvey Island 0

Maidstone United 1

Pinnock 10



MAIDSTONE United produced their best display of the season to date as they ended Canvey Island's unbeaten start to the campaign on Monday.

In contrast to their home form, Maidstone have been effective on the road so far this season and are yet to taste defeat.

They scored with their first attack of the game, when Nathan Paul's cross was deflected to Pinnock, who scored from six yards.

The visitors had chances to extend their lead but the win owed much to the referee, who failed to spot a blatant handball from Ashley Ulph in the second half.

On Saturday, the Stones fell to a 2-1 home defeat against Tooting & Mitcham, leaving the club still searching for their first home win of the season.

Maidstone were without midfielder Alan



Picture: Steve Terrell

Pouton, who has left the club to join rivals Sutton United. The former Dover Athletic and Gillingham midfielder was replaced by Danny Stubbs. Making his debut for the Stones was former Ramsgate and Herne Bay striker Aaron Firth, who joined last week.

The home side struggled to get going in the game and Tooting & Mitcham were on top for the majority of the first half. Despite the visitors creating numerous chances, it was Maidstone who opened the scoring. Four minutes before the break Ashley Ulph combined with Stubbs and his low shot flew past goalkeeper Dave King.

The second half saw Maidstone turn out an improved performance, but they couldn't find a way past King. Two quick fire goals from Paul Vines and Aaron Goode late on condemned Maidstone to a 2-1 defeat.

Stones joint-manager Alan Walker was disappointed with the performance from his side and felt the lack of experience was a telling factor in the game.

He said: "I was disappointed with the whole game to be fair, but it was a fair result. We came into half-time with the lead from our first attack.

"I thought we improved without a shadow of a doubt in the second half, but for me it was men against boys.

"If you look at the starting line-up, we had five teenagers in the side and it showed. We have got a lack of strength in depth in our squad but that is how it's going to be this season."

WINNER: James Pinnock scored the only goal in Maidstone's Bank Holiday Monday victory at Canvey Island, which lifted the club up to 12th in the Ryman Premier table

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